

EUROPEAN NEWS

E. Germans celebrate their anti-Nazi past

BY LESLIE COLT IN EAST BERLIN

HUNDREDS of American, British and Soviet veterans will gather at Torgau today to celebrate the link-up 40 years ago of the Soviet and U.S. armies at the Elbe river. The greying veterans are guests of the East German Government which has spared neither money nor effort to commemorate the many anniversaries since the defeat of Nazi Germany which it calls a "liberation" for Germans.

For weeks East Germany has marked every step in the advance of the Soviet Army toward Berlin with a barrage of ceremonies. Soviet film serials on the battle of Berlin are shown nightly on television while newspapers are filled with how by how accounts of how the "Nazi beasts" were slain.

East Germany's main Communist newspaper, Neues Deutschland, carries a daily report of what happened "40 years ago today." Yesterday, it noted, the first Belorussian front and the first Ukrainian front joined forces at Koenigs Wusterhausen, just outside Greater Berlin, splitting the Nazi armies entrenched in the city. Red Army soldiers had crossed the Spree river and Teltow canals, had raised the Red Flag over Karl Liebknecht Haus, the former Communist headquarters in Berlin, and



German and Soviet soldiers celebrate the end of war.

were engaged in fierce house-to-house fighting. In nearly all the accounts, the Nazis and their helpers are portrayed in a strangely alien people who were fought at every turn by upright German anti-fascists. At times it appears to the younger East Germans as if East Germany itself had fought beside the wartime allies to crush the Nazis.

In fact, many of the leaders of East Germany were among the small band of German Communists who actively resisted the Nazis.

Herr Hermann Axen, the

Politburo member who addressed a crowd of nearly 100,000 East Germans at recent ceremonies marking the liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp, spoke as a former prisoner. He noted that he and the other inmates who had liberated themselves on April 11, two days before the U.S. Army arrived, swore they would help build a new world of peace and freedom. He then proceeded to criticise the "aggressive circles" of the U.S. who allegedly sought military superiority over socialism. However, he said, unlike in 1939 the "force of aggression" no

longer held the upper hand militarily. Similarly, Herr Kurt Hager, another Politburo member who spoke at the anniversary of the liberation of Ravensbrueck women's concentration camp last Saturday, fought as a Communist in the Spanish Civil War. He, too, accused the Reagan Administration of surviving for the "worldwide domination of imperialism" and urged his listeners to remember the lessons of the Second World War.

Herr Hager said the defeat of Nazism—mainly by the Soviet Union—"opened the gates of

freedom and a happy future" for the German people. East Germany, he noted, had used this historic chance by destroying forever the roots of "war, exploitation and suppression."

It is difficult for most East Germans to think in the same black and white categories as their leaders who were among the tiny minority of Germans—including Communists, Social Democrats and churchmen—who fought the Nazis. An unwaveringly loyal supporter of each and every leadership in Moscow, they were determined after the war to remake their Germans in the Soviet image. Success, however, has been less than conspicuous.

East Germans, while rejecting the tendentious truths of their leaders, none the less have come to respect their anti-Nazi past. On Saturday East Germany will mark the freeing in 1945 by Soviet troops of Brandenburg prison. The country's leader, Herr Erich Honecker, served eight years of a 10-year sentence in Brandenburg for "high treason" passed down on him in 1957 by the infamous Nazi People's Tribunal.

With anti-fascists at its helm, East Germany is inevitably pointing with Schadenfreude to Bonn which is torn over whether it should be marking the defeat or the liberation of Germany in 1945.

Ireland issues new oil rules

BY BRENDAN KEENAN IN DUBLIN

THE IRISH Energy Ministry has published new terms for the treatment of marginal oilfields that may be discovered in Irish waters. It is an effort to attract more bidders for the country's third licensing round, which closes in June.

The large oil companies have been reluctant to enter the round because of uncertainty over the details of royalties and state participation that would apply to small fields.

Mr Dick Spring, the Energy Minister, who is also deputy prime minister in the coalition government, said he expected the oil companies

to respond to the new arrangements with an increased level of exploration. Over 80 wells have been drilled in Irish waters but the only commercial discovery has been a medium-sized gas field off Kinsale.

First reactions from industry experts to the new terms seemed favourable. Mr Conor McNulty of Basin Analysts said that, in some cases, a small field might now be more profitable to exploit in Irish waters than in the North Sea. He believed some of the companies that had been holding back would now apply in the third round.

The new terms define a marginal

field as one where the ratio of net revenues to capital expenditure is less than 1.84. If such a field has less than 75m barrels, the Government will relieve the first 25m barrels of production from royalties.

A field of any size that is designated as marginal will also benefit from a reduced burden of state participation. Under the 1975 licensing terms the Irish Government is entitled to 50 per cent of production but may also oblige the operator to pay 100 per cent of development costs, to be repaid later out of the state's production revenues.

Moscow warning to British diplomats

By Our Moscow Correspondent

THE Soviet Union said yesterday it had warned an unspecified number of British diplomats, in addition to those expelled on Monday, that their activities here were undesirable.

A British embassy spokesman confirmed some diplomats had been warned but declined to name them or say how many were called to the Foreign Ministry.

In the first public word on the latest tit-for-tat expulsions the ministry issued a statement which said Britain bore full responsibility for consequences of the "unfriendly act" of ordering five Soviet officials out of London last week.

Moscow retaliated by asking three British diplomats to leave. Both sides say the other's expelled officials had carried out activities "incompatible with their status," the diplomatic euphemism for spying.

The Foreign Ministry statement, issued by the official Tass news agency and printed prominently in the government daily Izvestia, said it had warned Britain's Ambassador Sir Iain Sutherland on several occasions that some of his staff were breaching the rules of conduct for foreign residents.

"Such activities have not ceased," the statement said, adding that this was why British diplomats were ordered to leave. It did not name the three staff. Britain says they are the naval attaché, one of his deputies and a scientific attaché.

"Others were warned in connection with their violation of the rules of conduct for foreigners," the statement said.

The Soviet statement said that by expelling its representatives on "absolutely unfounded" charges Britain was contradicting its stated intention to further improve ties.

Tass yesterday kept up Moscow's criticism of the U.S. for failing to negotiate seriously on arms reduction, one foreign staff writes.

The U.S. had "failed to make a single step, a single gesture that would corroborate the seriousness of its intentions," it said.

FINANCIAL TIMES, USSR No 19060, published daily except Sundays and holidays. U.S. subscription rates \$430.00 per annum in advance, postage paid at New York NY and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: send address changes to FINANCIAL TIMES, 14 East 60th Street, New York, NY 10022.

Sweden expects economy to expand by 2.5%

BY KEVIN DONE, NORDIC CORRESPONDENT IN STOCKHOLM

The Swedish Government expects the economy to expand by as much as 2.5 per cent this year, helped by a big increase in industrial investment and stronger-than-expected economic growth in the rest of western Europe.

The revised budget forecasts for 1985-86 published yesterday are more optimistic than the preliminary budget presented to Parliament at the beginning of the year, and Mr Kjell-Olof Feldt, the Finance Minister, ran into immediate charges of electioneering from the opposition.

A general election is due in September. Mrs Karin Soeder, deputy leader of the Centre Party, said: "Reality is not as bright as the Finance Minister claims."

Inflation was among the highest in Europe, she said. The current account had drastically worsened in the first quarter, imports had risen strongly and exports had fallen. "The after-care" of 1982's rampant devaluation has failed and the devaluation has only given a short-lived improvement in competitiveness. The party is over now," she said.

Mr Feldt, however, said the

economy is expected to grow by 2.5 per cent compared with 2 per cent suggested earlier. In the first quarter, only a small deterioration in the current account was expected this year, with a deficit of SKr 3.1bn (£276m), compared with a small surplus last year of SKr 1bn.

In spite of surprisingly poor trade figures for the first quarter, only a small deterioration in the current account was expected this year, with a deficit of SKr 3.1bn (£276m), compared with a small surplus last year of SKr 1bn.

New industrial orders to Swedish industry are still strong despite weakening sales of timber and pulp, and exports are forecast to rise by 4.3 per cent, compared with the earlier forecast of 3.6 per cent. Imports are rising faster, however, helped by surprisingly strong domestic demand.

The budget deficit forecast has also been lowered to SKr 60.8bn from SKr 63.5bn.

The Finance Ministry said yesterday that the "Swedish economic crisis, he still not been overcome," however, and that the first priority had to be the economic priority.

Community passport fails to impress customs officials

BY PAUL CHIESERIGHT IN BRUSSELS

UNIFORMED citizens of Europe are not recognising the symbol of Citizens' Europe.

The symbol is the European passport. Citizens' Europe is the political catchphrase for making the European Community emotionally relevant to the people who live in it.

But Community citizens travelling in it, brandishing the symbol of their engagement to the ideal, are finding that some customs men do not know what the passport—the Community passport—is.

It took the Belgian Foreign Ministry to sort out a fracas at Brussels Airport when officials wanted to send European passport-carrying Danes back home again.

Something must be done, declared Sig Rida, MEP, the Citizens' Europe commissioner, declared yesterday.

"I don't think member states are still failing to recognise the passport, but I do think national administrations have

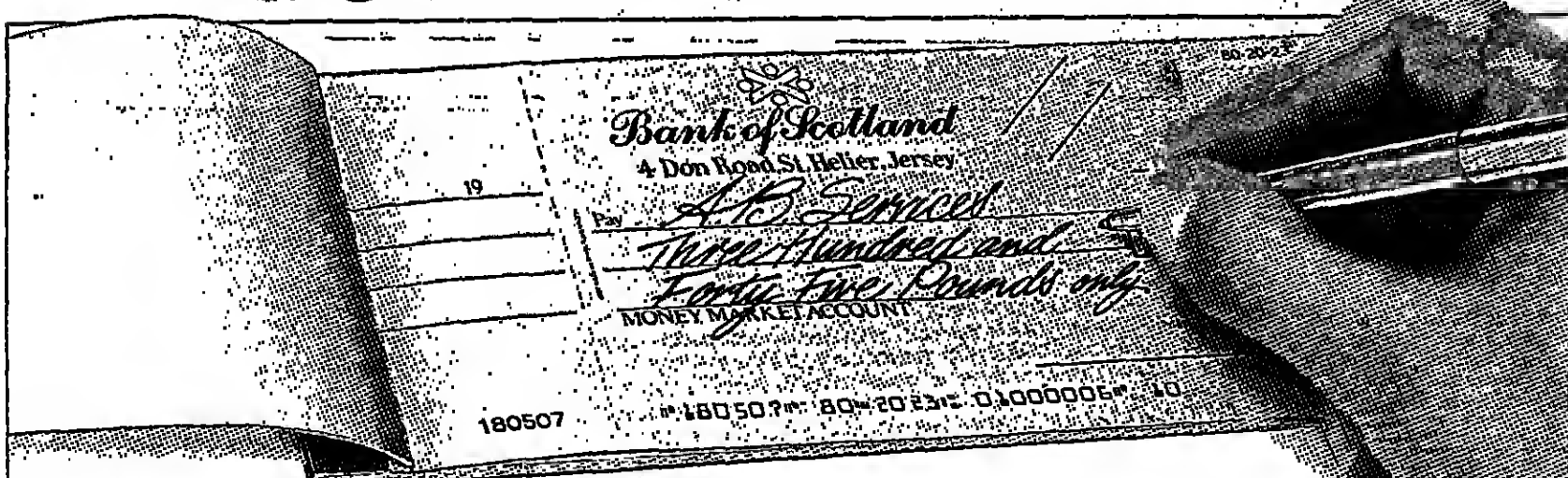
not been informed. That I think is scandalous. There has been plenty of time to do so," he complained.

Three months end 24 days to be precise. The passport should have come in throughout the Community on January 1. Brussels Airport is not the only citizen scare zone. Mr Rida di Meana talked of Danes in trouble in Germany and Irish in trouble in Greece and Germany.

So he and Lord Cockfield, one of the British commissioners, have written about it to the President of the Council of Ministers, Mr Giulio Andreotti.

Not that there are many passport in circulation. Ireland, Denmark and Luxembourg have them on systematic issue. Belgium, the Netherlands and Greece follow later this year. Italy and France have introduced but not distributed them—they are using up old stocks of national models. Britain and Germany are busy computerising and are waiting until 1987.

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Spanish labour union threatens pensions protest

BY DAVID WHITE IN MADRID

THE THREAT of mass protests against plans to reduce Spaniards' pension entitlements has created a rift in Socialist ranks between the government of Sr Felipe Gonzalez and the powerful UGT labour confederation.

The UGT, up to now a critical ally of the government, is not only taking a firm stand against pension cuts but has sharpened its tone against the whole basis of economic policy, following a mini-budget package announced last week by Sr Miguel Boyer, the Finance Minister.

The union's confederal committee, at a special meeting, attacked the government for planning to squeeze pensions without tackling a general overhaul of the social security system and agreed to mount a country-wide protest campaign.

A tripartite commission on social security reform was set up last autumn under two senior economic and social agreement reached between the Government, employers and the UGT—the only union to sign. But the commission's future is now in doubt.

Sr Nicolas Redondo, the UGT leader who is also a Socialist deputy in Congress and a key historical figure in the party, has pointed the finger directly at Sr Gonzalez as the principal man responsible for mistaken economic policies.

In a magazine interview published yesterday, Sr Redondo criticised the combination of tax cuts, announced by Sr Boyer, and reductions in workers' acquired rights.

"I am not saying that this Government is following a reactionary policy," he said, "but in some cases it coincides with Ronald Reagan's."

He attacked the Government for "arrogance" and "dogmatism," described its austerity policy of the last two years as "an utter failure," and accused it of "improving."

His declarations appear to put

paid to government hopes for patching together an agreement with the UGT on the pensions issue. The Government has been hesitating over the plan, which involves a reduction of 3 per cent or more in the pensions Spaniards will be entitled to in future from the state system when they retire.

The current 5m pensioners would continue under the old system, which provides between Ptas 34,000 (£156) and Ptas 131,000 (£582) a month.

The new pensions, which will be inflation-indexed, would require a total contribution period of 15 years instead of 10 and be based on the last eight years' contributions, instead of two at present. This is designed to stop the practice of "buying" pensions.

The plan is aimed at forestalling a looming crisis in the social security system, in which pensions take up 60 per cent of total expenditure. This proportion has been growing, while the share taken up by health care—26 per cent—has been declining. On present trends, by the end of the decade social security contributions would not be enough to meet the pension bill alone. This would increase the burden on the state budget, which already puts up more than 20 per cent of social security spending.

However, some sectors in the Socialist Party favour putting off the promised reform of the system until after the general elections scheduled for next year.

The UGT's rival union body, the Communist-led Workers' Commissions, has already announced plans for a protest strike and the two confederations are expected to discuss joint action.

The distancing of the UGT from the Government raises questions about Sr Gonzalez's participation in the union's May Day rally, a standard occasion for drumming up grass-roots support.

Spanish royal family reunited

By David White in Madrid

MORE than half a century after the establishment of Spain's second, last and ill-fated republic, the country is reuniting its royal family by bringing its dead back from exile.

The remains of Queen Victoria Eugenia, English grandmother of Spain's head of state, King Juan Carlos, are being flown today from Switzerland for burial with full state honours and a 21-gun salute at the monastery of El Escorial outside Madrid.

Once known in Spain as "the flower of queens," the Balmoral-born Victoria Eugenia, a granddaughter of Queen Victoria, fled with her husband King Alfonso XIII to Rome in 1931. After his abdication and death 10 years later, she moved to Lansanne and died there in 1969. The year before, she had returned to Spain to become godmother to the present heir to the throne, the Infante Don Felipe.

At El Escorial she will rejoin her husband whose body was repatriated from Rome five years ago, and their first-born son, Alfonso. His coffin is also due to arrive today, from Miami. The corpses of two other sons who died in exile, Gonzalo and Jaime, are being flown back with their mother.

Dissidents take a public platform

BY DAVID SUCHAN IN BUDAPEST

LAST MONDAY night in downtown Pest, Hungary's new electoral law, requiring the selection of at least two candidates to contest each seat in the June 3 parliamentary poll, produced an extraordinary public glimpse of the spectrum of opinion that lies beneath the surface.

Mr Peter Varkonyi, the Foreign Minister, was having to compete for places on the ballot with three other candidates, among them a leading dissident, Mr Gaspar Miklos Tamas. What is more, he was having to sit and listen—through the heckling and hissing—while Mr Tamas and his supporters expounded the outspoken views that usually earn them police harassment.

Mr Tamas was heavily defeated in this part of the fifth district of Pest (the Pest in Budapest) and Mr Varkonyi and two other candidates got on the ballot. The other dissident casualty in Monday's primary elections was Mr Laszlo Rajk, who despite his famous father—a foreign minister executed in a 1949 Stalinist purge—was almost equally heavily defeated in another part of the fifth district.

For the dissidents, anger at what they saw as the gerrymandering of the candidate caucuses was generally outweighed by pleasure at being legally able to state, from a public platform, their views on such taboo issues as conscientious objectors, Hungarian

minorities abroad, police harassment, censorship, the poor and the environment.

In relative terms, Hungary's tentative experiment in constitutional reform is a major achievement inside the Soviet bloc... but the authorities also clearly showed they will not allow their political experimentation to get too far ahead of their neighbours.

Precisely because Hungary is more liberal than its neighbours, dissidents here probably have less latent support than elsewhere. But the authorities were not taking chances. All candidates had to state their support for the Patriotic Front programme; but since this is only a brief and vague encapsulation of recent Communist

abroad, police harassment, censorship, the poor and the environment. In relative terms, Hungary's tentative experiment in constitutional reform is a major achievement inside the Soviet bloc... but the authorities also clearly showed they will not allow their political experimentation to get too far ahead of their neighbours.

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Party congress resolutions, the dissident candidates, tongue in cheek or not, stated their support.

But to actually get on the ballot, candidates need votes from one-third of all those present at at least two caucus meetings. Dissidents complained that the halls were packed with Communist activists and beefy plainclothes police ("the body-builders" as they are often labelled) well before meetings started. In theory only those living or working in the districts were eligible to vote, but no checks were made on those entering and thus the numbers and eligibility of those present was entirely, and conveniently, notional.

Pope names Polish cardinal

By Christopher Bobinski in Warsaw

POPE JOHN PAUL II yesterday named Henryk Gulbinowicz, Archbishop of Wroclaw, as one of 28 cardinals to be created next month.

The appointment of this staunch supporter of the banned union Solidarity is seen as strengthening the more militant wing in the Polish Church. The 56-year-old archbishop, who was appointed to the western Polish Wroclaw diocese in 1975, has made little secret of his sympathy for the Solidarity movement and as such has earned the enmity of the authorities.

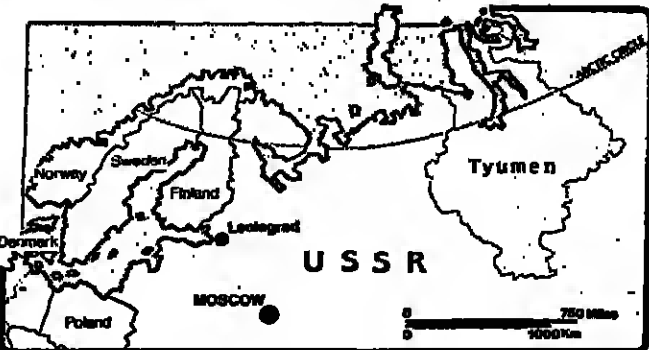
He was even accused recently at the trial of the killers of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the pro-Solidarity priest, of keeping 21.80m (£460,000) of Solidarity funds in safe keeping.

The new cardinals include two U.S. churchmen, Archbishop John O'Connor of New York, who has become a leading force in the American church, and Archbishop Bernard Law of Boston.

Also noteworthy are the appointments of Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno Larrain of Santiago, who has accused the regime of President Augusto Pinochet of creating a climate of oppression in Chile, and Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo of Managua who has been in conflict with Nicaragua's Sandinista Government.

Soviet oil province managers sacked

BY PATRICK COCKBURN IN MOSCOW



THE FALL in Soviet oil output has led to further dismissals of senior managers in the key Soviet oil province of Tyumen in West Siberia, which is responsible for 60 per cent of the country's crude production.

In the first quarter of this year Soviet oil output fell to 147m tonnes—in part because of the bad weather—after a small drop in production last year to 613m tonnes.

The failure of Tyumen to produce oil at the planned rate despite increased resources allocated to the industry in the region has been heavily criticised in the daily Sovetskaya Rossiya. It says two senior Communist Party officials in the district, responsible respectively for the oil industry and appointments to top jobs, have been dismissed.

The article also vigorously attacked a 1983 decision in the Soviet oil industry. Mr Gennadi Bogomyakov, head of the Communist Party in Tyumen since 1973, who has played a central role in the development of the oil industry in the region.

Mr Bogomyakov's attitude at a recent meeting of the heads of the Tyumen Communist Party called to consider the problems facing the oil industry was "sharp and tutorial" and stifled debate, the newspaper reported. As a result, discussion was sterile and speakers from the floor of the meeting just gave an account of their work with no analysis of faults.

The Politburo and Central Committee secretariat in Moscow are clearly very concerned at the state of the oil industry, which absorbs 17 per cent of total Soviet industrial investment. In Tyumen province, where most of the extra production is to be found, the local oil industry is accused of exploiting oilfields too quickly in pursuit of quick results. This lack of reservoir planning, combined with slow mechanisation and lack of infrastructure, have brought about the present difficulties.

In February this year, Mr Vladimir Dolgikh, a non-voting member of the Politburo in charge of heavy industry and energy, said that most of the

managers in Tyumen had been dismissed over the previous four years, but Sovetskaya Rossiya suggests that these waves of dismissals are not having the desired effect.

Despite the radical press criticism of oil and gas management, there is little sign that the Soviet Union faces any crisis in its oil or energy industries, though it is likely to miss its 1985 oil output target of 530m tonnes by a wide margin.

The Soviet Union was able to increase its oil exports to the West last year, receiving an estimated \$12bn (£9.6bn), in part because of conservation measures carried out in recent years.

Soviet consumption appears to have peaked in 1982. Since then gas has been substituted for some of the oil used in the Soviet Union, which totalled 2.5m barrels a day in 1983.

So far, gas has been substituted for 500,000 h/d and another 1.1 million h/d of oil can be saved by 1990. Gas output has exceeded target although nuclear energy is well

SOVIET OIL INDUSTRY (million tonnes)				
	1983	1984	1985	1990
Oil production	617	613	620	625
Consumption	460	na	470	484
Exports	157	na	150	141

behind plan—the Soviet Union has 16 nuclear power stations. There have also been problems with coal output and the development of open-cast mining in Siberia.

Although the energy programme (oil, gas, coal, nuclear energy and power stations) is getting priority for investment, absorbing 22 per cent of the total, the money still not sufficient to build up the oil, gas and coal industries in the vastness of the West Siberian basin. This, as much as incompetent management, may turn out to be the main problem in Tyumen.

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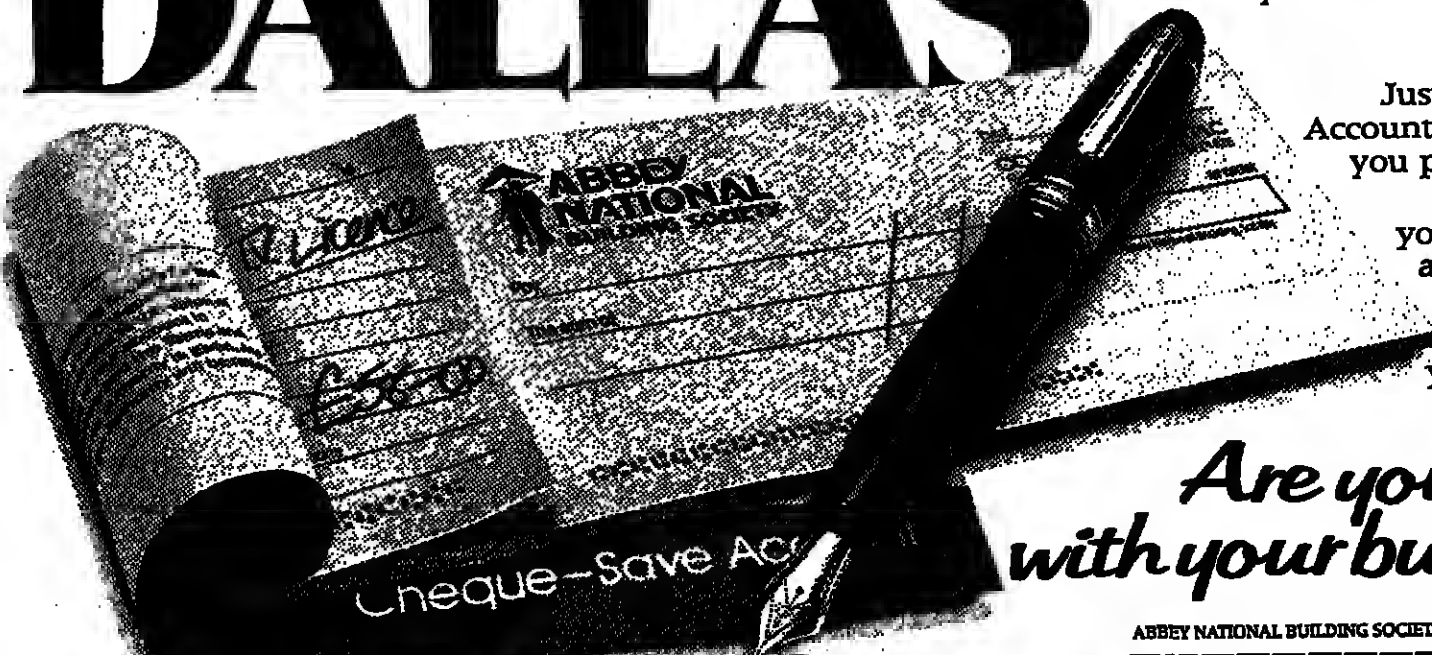
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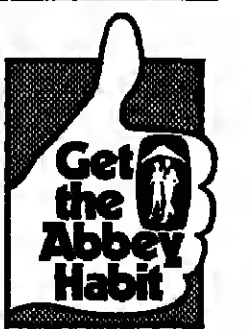
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AMERICAN NEWS

The strong dollar and high interest rates have exacted a heavy toll in the state, reports Nancy Dunne

Iowa reels under the effects of Reaganomics

IOWA, a state of lovely, rolling farmsteads in America's heartland, is in the process of divorce—from its past. As often happens in such cases, the parties are enraged and in turmoil, bitterly grieving and fearful of the future.

With three-quarters of its business dependent on agriculture, the state is engulfed in an economic tidal wave, which is sweeping away long-held family farms, agribusinesses and heavy industry. Nowhere has the impact of Reaganomics struck more profoundly with its strong dollar, high interest rates and declining federal largesse.

"For many Iowans this seems a season of despair, as they are inexorably drawn closer to the end of their material resources by powers beyond their control," says the Des Moines Register, the state's largest newspaper. Day by day, it records depressing news—the state will be the largest loser if the Reagan budget cuts pass Congress; thousands are fleeing for the sun belt in search of jobs.

After five years of low crop prices, weather problems, high costs and falling exports, notices of land and machinery auctions abound. More and more, the auctions are guarded by state troopers as fears grow of violence from the once-proud farmers.

Iowa's gross state product declined during the last three months of last year, for the fifth straight quarter. Housing construction is down 78 per cent. Farm tax receipts yielded \$30m less than was expected. Even the state liquor stores are feeling the pinch, some have



U.S. farmers protesting in Washington last month against the President's agricultural policies

been closed and others assigned shorter hours.

Last year was the bleakest for Iowa banking since the great depression. Nearly one out of six banks lost money, and net income dropped by one-third. Three banks failed in 1984, and three, thus far, have closed their doors this year.

Farm implement and machinery dealers are selling out in droves. Plant lay-offs are mounting. In Waterloo, the state's indus-

trial hub, Iowans debate whether or not their city of 76,000 is dead or simply seriously ill. Unemployment is estimated at 10 per cent, not including the farmers in the outlying hills. Only defence spending is keeping the economy going.

Thousands of unshipped tractors etch the horizon of the neatly landscaped test fields near the John Deere and Co., the world's largest producer of wheeled tractors. Officials have recently announced a six-month

shutdown of the four-wheel drive tractor line. Employment has dropped from 16,300 in early 1980 to an estimated 7,900 by the end of May.

The Rath Packing Company, once the highest meatpacker in the nation, declared bankruptcy in January. The area's schools and hospitals, adjusting to declining population, have made their own lay-offs.

"People want jobs so badly... you can see despair written on their faces," says Mrs. Vi Neal, part owner of a clothing

store which she says will never survive past the year end.

All over the state, paranoia is rampant, conspiracy theories are plentiful and everyone has a list of culprits.

United Auto Workers officials talk about how the oil companies and his corporations are swallowing up land and business.

The owner of a fur boutique blames the "greedy" farmers and says, "you can't eat like a hog without getting a stomach ache."

Anti-Japanese feeling is pervasive. Car bumper stickers proclaim, "Hungry? eat your foreign car" or "Unemployment: made in Japan."

Mr. Randy Steig, a spokesman for the Iowa Bankers Association in Des Moines, the state capital, says bankers, farmers and the Government all share some of the blame. Competition between the 635 banks is fierce, he says, and bankers, fearing to be left behind, made loans on the basis of inflated assets rather than a farmer's ability to pay.

It was government policy which encouraged the farmers to plant "fence row to fence row" for export and, as a result, the once-diversified state agricultural economy now produces maize and soybeans almost exclusively. Farmers, says Mr. Steig, got caught up in the expansionist fervour and bought themselves giant air-conditioned tractors with stereo tape decks.

The farmers say the banks are the villains which "dictated" their expansion and suddenly called in their loans.

For all their despair, Iowans are determined to save what they can. They fill their days

with meetings, form political alliances, organise relief efforts. In Waterloo, efforts are still under way to reopen the bankrupt meatpacking plant. The Chamber of Commerce has hung notices in all the local hotels promising \$1,000 rewards for all leads which bring new business to town.

Iowa is a study in political contradictions. Its governor and one senator are Republicans. Its lieutenant governor, legislature and one senator are Democrats.

The newspaper opinion pages overflow with conservative sentiment, yet Iowa was one of the first states to order "comparable pay" for its women employees. The American flag is flown over private homes and painted on barn doors.

Mr. Bob Anderson, the lieutenant governor, wants the state to return to diversified farming and once again grow its own vegetables and fruit. Gov. Terry Branstad wants to build tourism, attract high tech business, promote development of maize by-products and establish a venture capital fund.

But state officials seem unlikely to prevent the wrenching readjustment of the farm sector. Thousands of smaller landowners are likely to end their days as tenant farmers for larger producers.

Mr. Jim Rioridin, an assistant to Mr. Anderson, a dispossessed farmer, "It was the hardest thing to leave that land," he says, "and the vision I had for it. Out there on the tractor you do a lot of thinking... of how you can work the land and conserve it. It is terrible when you see everything slipping away, and there is nothing you can do to save it."

White House denies change in plan for Bitburg ceremony

BY REGINALD DALE, U.S. EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

THE White House yesterday insisted that there had been no change in President Ronald Reagan's plans to lay a wreath at a Nazi war cemetery next month, despite mounting pressure on him to drop the controversial visit.

The first national opinion poll on the issue showed 61 per cent of Americans disapproving of Mr. Reagan's planned visit to the Bitburg cemetery, where 47 members of the Waffen SS are buried alongside almost 2,000 regular German soldiers. Some 39 per cent were in favour.

In the Washington Post/ABC News poll, 52 per cent said he should drop the ceremony, while 44 per cent said he should go ahead. Overall, Mr. Reagan's general approval rating for his handling of the Presidency dropped to 54 per cent, the lowest since October 1983.

While many of Mr. Reagan's senior advisers were showing increasing dismay over the damaging political fallout from the bungled arrangements for the visit, the White House yesterday denied that moves were under way to persuade West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to alter the venue for the planned gesture of U.S.-German post-war reconciliation.

In Bonn, Herr Peter Boenisch, the West German Government's chief spokesman, said that one of Mr. Reagan's White House advisers had sent him a private letter to a West German official last week, asking if an alternative might be considered.

That, however, was before Friday's joint announcement by Mr. Reagan and Mr. Kohl that a "final" decision had been taken that the visit should go ahead.

Mr. Reagan was reported to have been "irritated" by the

letter, which the New York Times attributed to the national Security Council, headed by Mr. Robert MacFarlane. There was little doubt, however, that the desire to find a way out of the Bitburg visit was widely shared by Mr. Reagan's senior advisers. Church leaders yesterday joined Jewish and veterans groups and a majority of the U.S. senate, in imploring Mr. Reagan to change his mind. Sen. Robert Dole, the Republican majority leader, said that the planned ceremony was "a mistake."

Peter Bruce in Bonn writes: The West German Government yesterday strongly denied that the White House had put any pressure on Chancellor Helmut Kohl, "officially or unofficially," to help Mr. Reagan avoid visiting the Bitburg cemetery.

It was not clear whether the Cabinet had discussed the growing concern over Mr. Reagan's visit to Bitburg (which Bonn has tried to offset by arranging a visit on the same day to the Bergen Belsen concentration camp site) but Herr Boenisch said the German Chancellor had found it "very difficult" to be involved in an issue which had developed into a domestic row in the U.S.

Many observers in Bonn think it would be politically almost impossible for Chancellor Kohl to try and steer Mr. Reagan away from Bitburg.

The visit, which certainly outrage the right wing of his party and the many other Germans who believe (as Chancellor Kohl did when he first mooted the idea to Mr. Reagan) that the 40th anniversary of Nazi capitulation was a "final" decision had been taken that the visit should go ahead.

Mr. Reagan was reported to have been "irritated" by the

Ecuador in long term rescheduling deal

BY PAUL BETTS IN PARIS

WESTERN governments agreed for the first time yesterday to reschedule the official debts of a developing country over several years by granting Ecuador a three year rescheduling package involving a substantial amount of the country's government guaranteed debt.

Under the novel rescheduling package agreed by the so-called Paris Club of Western creditor nations, Ecuador secured about \$400m in debt relief on payments due on its government guaranteed debt between June 1984 and January 1989, senior Ecuador officials disclosed in Paris last night.

They added that Ecuador faced interest and principal payments on its government guaranteed debts totalling \$380m between June 1984 and 1989.

The Paris Club agreement is expected to ease the way for Ecuador to complete arrangements with commercial banks on its \$4.3bn multi-year rescheduling package and \$200m fresh money credit to which subscriptions have been slower than expected, Ecuador is estimated to have total external debts of \$7.6bn.

The multi-year debt deal

with Ecuador signals the growing willingness of Western governments to increase support for developing countries, especially those showing solid progress in improving their economic readjustment.

Until now the Paris Club countries had preferred short-term one-year agreements to multi-year packages. Commercial banks have been granting such multi-year agreements since 1982.

Under the terms of yesterday's agreement, Ecuador's entire official debt repayments this year will be rescheduled at the same time as 85 per cent of the official debt repayment total in 1986 and 70 per cent of the repayments in 1987. The repayments will be spread over eight years with a three year grace period. The package also includes debt arrears.

The Paris Club creditor countries have also agreed to reschedule \$190m of Costa Rica's official debt repayments falling due in 1984 and 1985.

The repayments under the Costa Rican deal are spread over 10 years including a five year grace period. Costa Rica's foreign debt is estimated to total about \$3.5bn.

Teamsters chief rebuffs commission on crime

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN NEW YORK

A U.S. presidential commission into organised crime has failed to crack the defences of Mr. Jackie Presser, president of the Teamsters, the nation's largest labour union, who has been accused of links with convicted labour racketeers.

In testimony to the commission in Chicago last week, Presser repeatedly refused to answer questions, even pleading the Fifth Amendment—which gives a person the right to refuse to testify against himself—when asked when he became president of the union.

The commission is holding hearings with the aim of "educating" the American public on the involvement of organised crime in the labour movement.

Four unions commonly charged with having links with

the Mafia have been the objective of this instructional drive. They are the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Laborers' International Union of North America, the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' International Union and the International Longshoremen's Union.

Presser, who once described his position as "an electric chair" of a commission because he was the "principal target" of a Federal investigation into a Cleveland union organisation he used to head.

Three previous presidents of the union, Mr. Roy Williams, Mr. James Beckett, who later disappeared and is assumed to have been killed by mobsters) and Mr. Dave Beck were convicted of criminal activities.

U.S. queries Soviet policy after shooting of officer

BY OUR WASHINGTON STAFF

THE CONTROVERSY over the shooting of a U.S. army major by a Soviet soldier in East Germany last month has continued with the Reagan Administration asking Moscow to clarify its statement that it had never promised to refrain from using force if a similar situation arises.

Moscow's denial of a promise not to use force against U.S. military liaison personnel, and the strong U.S. reaction, cast doubts on a thaw in U.S.-Soviet relations.

Mr. Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, read a

lengthy statement to reporters late on Tuesday accusing Moscow of "distorting" the facts about the shooting of Major Arthur Nicholson.

"Continued Soviet refusal to address this matter is a responsible and reciprocal fashion cannot fail to have adverse consequences on future relations," he said.

The White House softened its comments with a statement welcoming Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reaffirmation, in a speech to the Communist Party central committee, of Soviet readiness to improve relations with the U.S.

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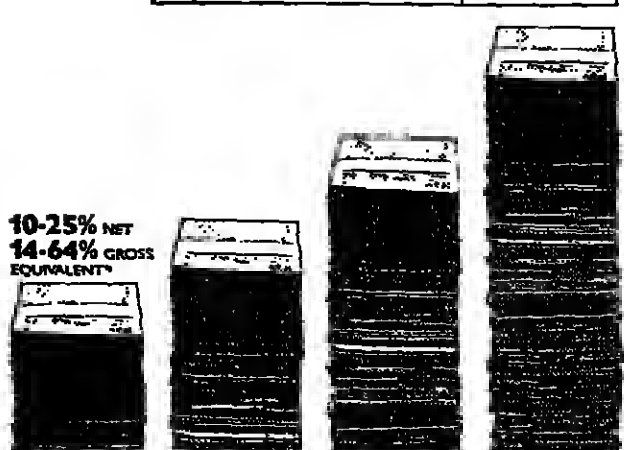
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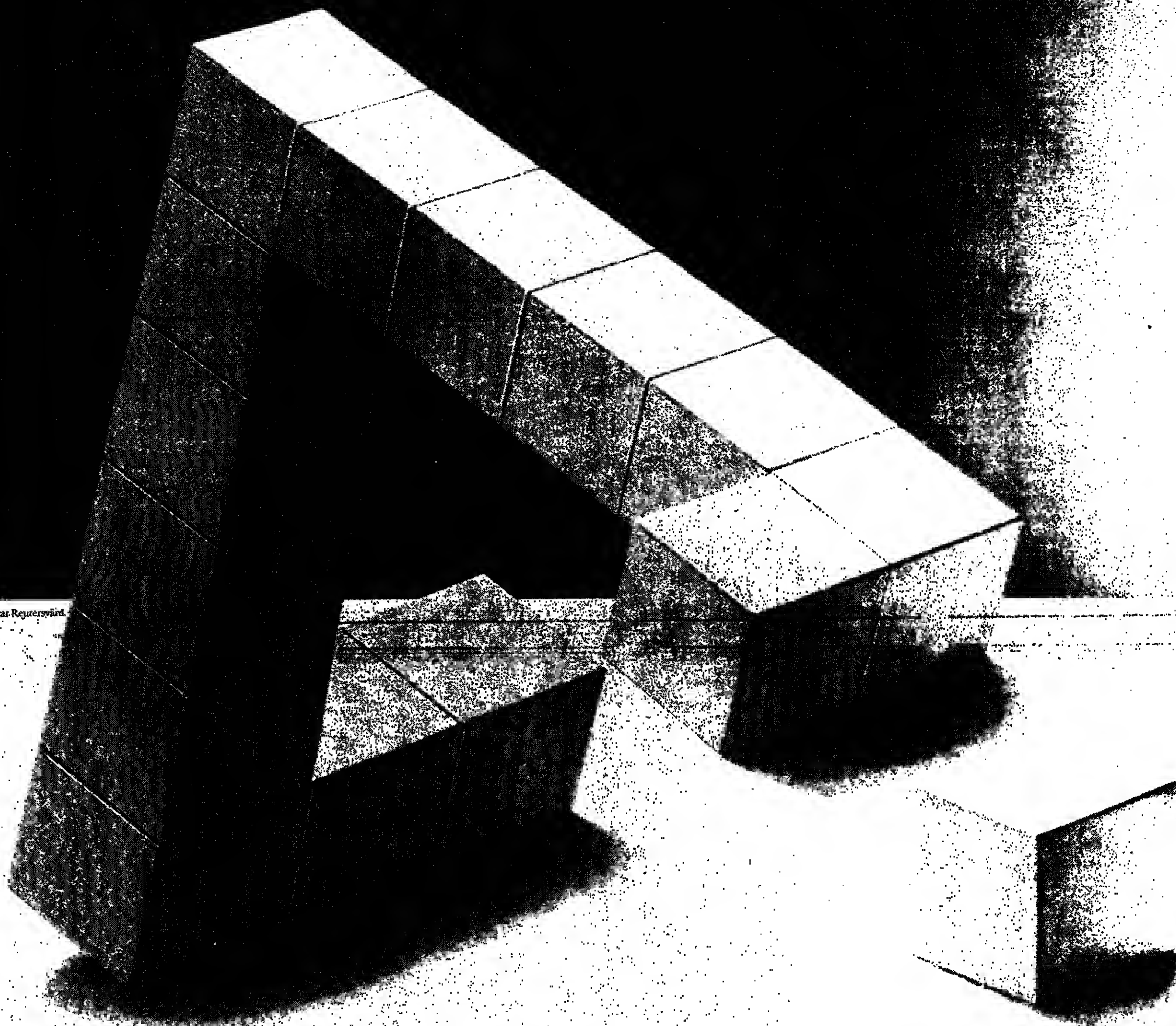
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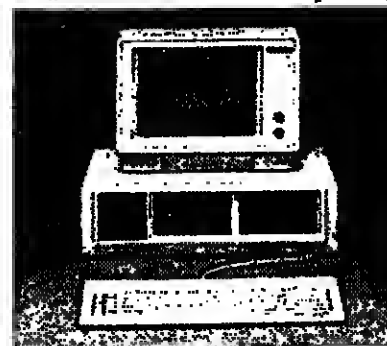
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PHILIPS

OVERSEAS NEWS

Israelis continue march out of Lebanon

By David Lennon in Tel Aviv

ISRAELI TROOPS withdrew from eastern Lebanon yesterday, ending a three-year confrontation with the Syrian Army, which they had driven out of the southern Bekaa Valley and off the Jebel Barkan mountain range during the 1982 invasion.

Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Defence Minister, said yesterday that he expects Syria to move its troops south "here and there" but that the Syrians knew full well that a major move southwards towards the Israeli border would be intolerable.

Mr. Rabin made clear that Israel reserved freedom of action to strike back into the evacuated areas if guerrillas operate from that territory.

However, guerrilla attacks continued yesterday against the Israeli forces which are still occupying 1,250 sq km of southern Lebanon with a largely hostile population of Shi'ites and Palestinians.

Cheering soldiers riding tanks, personnel carriers and jeeps flying Israeli flags, headed southwards on the day the nation mourned its war dead, including the almost 650 killed in the Lebanon operation.

Most Israeli soldiers yesterday seemed delighted that the dangerous and frustrating occupation of Lebanon was coming to an end. Some spoke openly of the occupation as a mistake, but others shrugged it off as just another part of their job.

Cobra attack helicopters whirled overhead as the Israeli forces abandoned their positions and withdrew their equipment, including the long-range 175mm guns which had Damascus within their range.

The Israeli forces are now temporarily redeployed along the Litani river and in an area some 15km north of the Israeli border in the south-east Lebanon. The final stage of the withdrawal, begun in February, is due to be completed in the first week of June.

The 15,000 Christians in the town of Jezzine, south-east of Sidon, appeared apprehensive about the removal of Israeli protection. Some residents said they feared there would be an outbreak of fighting with the Shi'ite and Druze forces in the area.

They were clearly worried that the sectarian battles which broke out in Sidon following the earlier Israeli withdrawal will be repeated in their town, despite the presence of more than 100 men from the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army.

David Dodwell reports from Guangdong Province on a privileged economy in rural China

A respected entrepreneur in a Pearl River village

FENG JIASONG has become rich in Deng Xiaoping's China. When he bid three years ago to farm five acres of fish ponds in his home village of Magong in the Pearl River Delta, he was taking a risk that the Cultural Revolution had fought many to avoid at all costs. Since then, he has earned more than RMB 60,000 a year (about £15,850) has built a three-storey house for RMB 100,000, and is being praised as a model for other villages to emulate.

A decade ago he would have been criticised as a "capitalist class" and would have been a prime candidate for political re-education. Today, Feng is untroubled by the jealousies his wealth might arouse in a community which is wealthy by Chinese standards where annual earnings average RMB 1,500. Individual enterprise is encouraged, and "special economic households" like Feng's make up significant percentage of families, particularly in the countryside.

"It's not a question of jealousy, but a question of who gets rich first," he says, echoing official comments. Feng is perhaps wisely ploughing funds into road improvements, public toilets, and help for the local school. He may be rich, but there is no way he is going to allow anyone to call him a capitalist.

Flashy gold front teeth but still wearing a drab blue Mao jacket, he is flamboyant about the future: "I don't believe there can be any reversal. Deng Xiaoping has a very high reputation in China."

The Pearl River region is one of three deltas identified by Peking earlier this year as focal points for rapid economic growth. Like the 14 open coastal cities and four special economic zones set up over the past five years, they have been allowed special economic privileges and a greater degree of autonomy

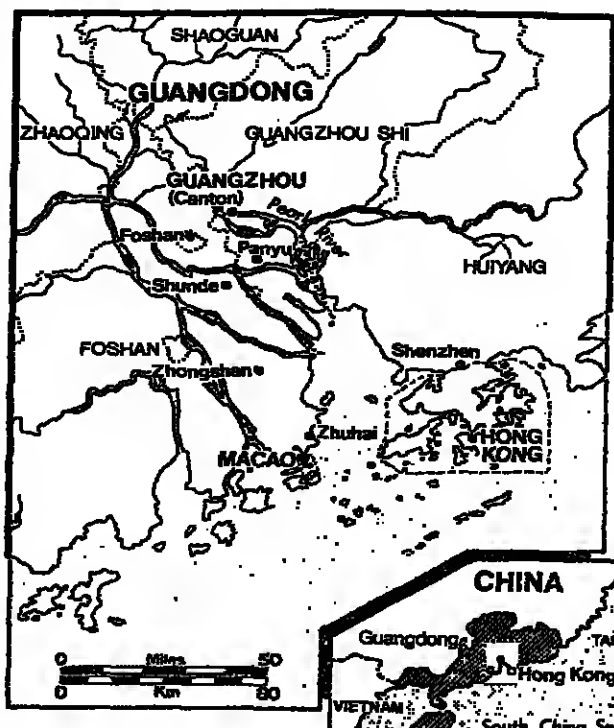
so as to act as catalysts for progress elsewhere in the country. Travelling south between Foshan and Zhongshan, every township appears to be a construction site, with roads being widened, houses built, and factories rising above the roadside dust. Tangled forests of television aerials—all homed in on Hong Kong transmitters—grow from the rooftops. County officials churn out statistics suggesting that industrial and agricultural output has doubled over the past two years, with salaries rising at a similar pace.

But, of course, this area provides anything but an accurate reflection of the changes taking place in other parts of China. Fertile soil and tropical rain make it one of China's richest agricultural areas, particularly for rice, sugarcane and a range of fruits. The river-riddled delta area is critically important for fish farming.

Moreover, the closeness of Hong Kong, and the fact that hundreds of thousands of families now living in Hong Kong have their ancestral roots in the area, has helped the region to attract investment, both patriotic and commercial, on a giddy scale since 1978.

Guangdong province as a whole had attracted investment amounting to US\$8.1bn (about £2.5bn) by the end of 1984. Small areas like Panyu County, with a population of less than 700,000, boast endowments amounting to HK\$24m (about £2.5m) from compatriots in Hong Kong and Macao. Such compatriots have played an important part in attracting foreign investment worth US\$57m, according to local officials.

Administrators in Foshan city, at the heart of a district with a population of just over 3.5m, claim to have won over \$5m investment amounting to US\$350m. They say 70,000 jobs



in the city, about a third of its workforce, depend on ventures involving "economic co-operation" with the outside world.

In Shunde County, Tong Quanyao, vice-head of the county, says donations from the estimated 300,000 overseas Chinese who trace ancestral roots to the area amount to about HK\$150m and have funded a tenth of local infrastructure spending. A further US\$7.5m has arrived in the form of remittances.

With such investment, the area has been transformed from a once-exclusively agricultural region to one where light industry accounts for the

majority of jobs and output, and where tourism is making an important contribution to the economy.

In the wider Foshan area, agriculture accounted for no more than a third of total output last year of RMB 8.36bn. Factories making such things as toys, artificial flowers, ceramics, pharmaceuticals, ceiling fans or integrated circuits account for most of the rest.

With industrial salaries averaging between RMB 130 and RMB 150 a month, factory workers are earning about twice what they could expect to earn still working on the land. This has helped the authorities to move families out of farming

and to improve agricultural efficiency. Most areas now manage two crops a year where they once managed only one. However, there is evidence that productivity remains low by international standards.

Changes occurring elsewhere in China, or in less fortunate parts of Guangdong itself, are doubtless occurring at a much slower pace, a daunting observation when the problems still confronting such model areas as the Pearl River delta are taken into account.

Officials in factory after factory talked of chronic power shortages, with the provincial grid meeting only between half and two-thirds of their needs. All continuous process plants had installed their own diesel generators.

Infrastructure remains poor. Traffic between Canton (Guangzhou) in the north and Zhuhai in the south is slowed by single-carriageway roads and numerous ferry crossings. A number of impressive and expensive bridges have replaced ferries, but the time and money that must still be spent is formidable.

Equipment available in most factories is antiquated. Lu Ruihua, the acting mayor of Foshan, claimed with a puzzling statistical exactness that while 11 per cent of the machinery used in factories in the area was "up to the standards of the 1980s", 42 per cent was "up to 1970's standards". Presumably the remaining 47 per cent is based on technology pre-dating the Cultural Revolution or is at least 15 years old.

Just elite of the factories in the province have as yet been

mada responsible for their own profits or losses. Even those have to buy most of their raw materials at controlled prices and conduct most of their local trading corporations. They get paid in local currency for their exported output rather than in foreign exchange, with little awareness of the competitive forces at work in international trade.

Despite the problems still facing them, officials in the Pearl River area boast growth rates ranging between 20 and 30 per cent per year over the past three years. Some of the problems have undoubtedly been thrown up by the sheer pace of growth, and this has prompted some of the more cautious voices in Peking to suggest that the brakes should be applied.

Only this week Mrs Chen Muhua, the recently appointed president of the People's Bank of China, complained that rural industries had developed too fast and could not in future rely on attracting their present large share of rural bank lending.

According to the English-language China Daily, Mrs Chen said rural enterprises will have to rely more heavily on their own accumulated funds as the central government tries to tighten credit control in an effort to smooth the pace of economic reform. They accounted for half of rural bank loans last year, and were an important reason for an "excessive" RMB 500 billion increase in currency in circulation, she said.

As Mr Jie Chufa, deputy mayor of Zhongshan, commented in the luxurious, Hong Kong-funded surroundings of the Zhongshan Spring Stings Golf Club—China's only operative golf course, designed by Arnold Palmer: "As far as this region is concerned, we have no intention of slowing growth."

India, China discover the burdens of food surplus

CHINA and India, the world's two most populous nations which battled for years to achieve self-sufficiency in food grains, are suffering from an embarrassment of riches, Reuters reports from New Delhi.

Delegates from the two nations told a United Nations seminar here in New Delhi yesterday their governments were considering changing food management policies to overcome a huge foodgrain surplus.

After decades of food scarcity and imports, the two Asian neighbours, which account for nearly 40 per cent of the world's 1.75bn, were burdened with problems such as storing and transporting surplus grain, they said.

Food experts from 24 countries in Asia and the Pacific are attending the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) seminar on "Food Security".

Liu Dongping, a deputy director of China's Commerce Ministry, said his country's grain output rose to a record 407m tonnes in 1984 from a bumper harvest of 387m tonnes in the previous year.

"... We want to change our food composition from foodgrain to meat, milk and eggs," Liu said.

India's bumper harvests in the past two years stopped a run of food imports during the previous three years but the record crops have left warehouses overflowing with grain.

Mr R. Birendra Singh, India's Food and Civil Supplies Minister, said foodgrain stocks with the government had already topped 22m tonnes against the country's storage capacity of 20m tonnes. The stock was likely to rise to an unprecedented level of 28m tonnes in the next two months, he said.

To reduce stocks, Mr Singh said it might be worth considering restricting supplies of subsidised grain to only poorer Indians rather than for all as now.

The All-China Federation of Trade Unions announced on Tuesday that it is ready to consider restoring relations with the Soviet trade union movement, AP reports from Peking.

The official Xinhua news agency also quoted Jiangchong, vice president of the federation, as telling a news conference, "We restored relations with the trade union organisation of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) last year and with the Hungarian trade union two years ago."

China's state-approved unions broke relations with unions in the East bloc in 1967, after the Soviet ideological split.

Reactor adds: Peking's bus drivers have mounted a rare go-slow to protest about pay and bonuses, Wong said Tuesday.

In some enterprises the workers have opinions on their pay and bonuses. They reflect this in actions which have an influence on production."

HK jury move rejected

BY OUR HONG KONG CORRESPONDENT

THE HONG KONG Government yesterday rejected in the face of mounting public protest over plans to replace juries with panels of professional adjudicators in hearing complex commercial crimes.

Nominated members of the territory's Legislative Council decided yesterday to challenge the Government by calling for a select committee to look into the issue rather than allow the Commercial Crimes Bill to receive a second reading in the council next week.

Rather than risk an embarrassing division in the council chamber between nominated members and government officials, the territory's Legal Department, which has been sponsoring the Bill, promptly announced it would support the

nominated members' proposal. The withdrawal makes it almost certain that in the autumn of this year, trials linked with the collapse of Carrian Investments, the property and shipping group that went into liquidation in 1983 with debts of at least HK\$100m (£1bn), most of them to Malaysia's biggest bank, will be heard by a normal jury.

The setback was seen yesterday by members of Hong Kong's legal community as a blow to the reputation of Mr Michael Thomas, the territory's Attorney General, who has fought fiercely in favour of the reforms. It is also an embarrassment to Sir Edward Youde, Hong Kong's Governor, who recently took the unusual step of openly supporting the reforms.

S. African mining disputes

BY JIM JONES IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA'S black National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has declared two disputes with the country's gold mining industry which presage tough bargaining when both sides begin negotiating on wage hikes next month.

The disputes involve one with the Gold Fields of South Africa (GFS) mining house over conversion of re-enlistment bonuses to leave pay and the other with Anglo American Corporation over the extension of employees of a 10 per cent wage increase awarded to a small number of black mine officials in January.

On Monday the NUM presented the Chamber of Mines, which is the employers' co-ordinating body, with a preliminary

40 per cent across-the-board wage demand in addition to demands for improvements in conditions of employment.

Negotiations on black wages are due to get under way early in May and will be accompanied by pressure from the 110,000-strong NUM for an acceleration of the process of eliminating the final vestiges of job reservation which prevent blacks from occupying responsible positions at the workplace.

The all-white 23,000-strong Mine Workers Union (MWU) remains opposed to the relaxation of racial job barriers unless this is accompanied by satisfactory guarantees of job security for its members. In a move which was widely seen as signal-

ling a determined bargaining stance on job reservation, the MWU declared an official dispute with the chamber in March as part of the white wage negotiating round. The MWU called for a 20 per cent wage increase for its members while the chamber countered with an offer of 9.5 per cent.

On February 26, Mr Danie S. Smith, minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, told Parliament that he was not satisfied with progress in talks between the chamber and white unions on satisfactory means of lifting the few remaining barriers to black job advancement. He added that he hoped legislation could be introduced in the 1986 parliamentary session to scrap racial job bars.

Township youths battle police

BY ANTHONY ROBINSON IN CAPE TOWN

MORE THAN 70 black youths demanding the withdrawal of troops and police from one township clashed with police yesterday in Alexandra, scene of bitter fighting during the 1976 Soweto rising and the township closest to the white northern suburbs of Johannesburg.

As police moved in to break up the demonstration with tear gas, cars were stoned by the mainly school-leaving youths and factories and shops were set alight.

Army units later moved into the township to assist police. Until recent years, Alexandra and Soweto were islands of relative calm while unrest flared in other townships in the Vaal

Triangle, the Eastern Cape and elsewhere.

Last week, however, bottle stores, laundries and supermarkets owned by the former mayor of Soweto, Mr Ephraim Tshabalala, were set alight by gangs of youths and a white factory owned and run by his father-in-law was damaged in Alexandra.

Police described yesterday's outbreak as "part of a methodical but apparently motiveless campaign of terror in the township."

One of the victims of recent violence is the Rev Sam Buti, the mayor of Alexandra and former president of the South African Council of Churches. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s Mr Buti led a hard-fought cam-

paign to prevent the Government uprooting residents and razing the township as a "black spot." Having won that battle he then fought for government funds to rehabilitate houses and upgrade facilities.

Despite Mr Buti's high prestige among older residents he was told by young radicals within the township to resign as mayor. Similar demands have led to the resignation of many other mayors and black councillors on threat of death and destruction of property. Mr Buti refused to resign and his resignation was rejected by the township council. The church in Alexandra has since been firebombed on several occasions.

Morocco plans sweeping privatisation

MOROCCO'S new centre-right Government is to pursue a bold privatisation policy in an effort to overcome economic difficulties, Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lammari said, Reuters reports from Rabat.

In a statement to Parliament last night, he said some economic sectors taken over by the state after independence in 1956 would be gradually handed over to private enterprise.

He said the Government coalition named by King Hassan on April 11 envisaged "a bold policy of denationalisation to return to private enterprise everything that naturally belongs to it."

Agriculture will be one of the first sectors involved and the 250,000 hectares (100,000 acres) of French settler land nationalised in 1973 are to be transferred to private ownership.

State companies will be rationalised to make them more productive and privatisation of some of them could not be excluded, Mr Lammari said.

Morocco must pursue a realistic policy to correct large trade and budget deficits and repay its foreign debt estimated at \$12.5bn (£9.8bn) and currently being rescheduled, the Prime Minister said.

Zambian Cabinet changed

BY PATTI WALDMER IN LUSAKA

PRESIDENT Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia has announced an extensive reshuffle of his Cabinet, including changes in the three most senior positions in the Government.

President Kaunda said at a news conference yesterday that the former Finance Minister, Mr K. S. K. Musokotwane, will take over from Mr Nalumbindi as Prime Minister. This move comes as Zambia is involved in intensive discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in an attempt to re-activate its suspended standby borrowing programme with the Fund.

Referring to the presence of a five-man IMF team in Lusaka, President Kaunda repeated his

past criticisms of the Fund's formula for economic reform in Zambia, believed to include a substantial devaluation of the Kwacha. He did not rule out eventual agreement with the Fund to "solve Zambia's grave economic problems," saying that "it would appear we have no way out the IMF way."

Mr Grey Zulu, widely regarded as a possible successor to the 51-year-old President, moves from the senior position of Secretary of State for Defence and Security to become Secretary-General of the ruling United National Independence Party (UNIP). He is replaced at Defence by Mr A. K. Shapi, a member of UNIP's central committee.

Sihanouk urged to stay

BY KERRAN COOK IN BANDUNG, INDONESIA

COUNTRIES in the Association of South-East Asian Nations and China are appealing to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the head of the coalition fighting the Vietnamese in Kampuchea, to reconsider a request to resign from his post. Prince Sihanouk wrote to his coalition allies saying he was in bad health, but observers say he has become increasingly dejected recently, particularly after the Vietnamese overran coalition bases near the Thai border.

News of the appeal came bare in Bandung, where the Asian countries, China, and representatives from more than 80 other countries have gathered for a special commemorative meeting of the 1955 Asia Africa Bandung conference.

It is felt that if Prince Sihanouk did resign, it would be a serious blow to the morale of the coalition. Prince Sihanouk has played a vital role in gaining popular support for the coalition within Kampuchea, and has also led a successful campaign for its recognition.



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NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES

Pursuant to Clause 7 of the Trust Deed dated December 6, 1983 between Fannuc Ltd and The Industrial Bank of Japan Trust Company, under which the above-described Bonds were issued, you are hereby notified that an issue of securities which will be convertible into Shares of our Company has been authorized for issuance on May 8, 1985.

Based upon the number of Shares outstanding as of March 31, 1985, it would now appear that, pursuant to Condition 5(C) (x) of the Bonds, no adjustment of the Conversion Price shall be required solely as a result of this issuance.

Final determination will be made based upon the number of Shares outstanding as of May 8, 1985, no adjustment is required, no further publication will be made.

FANUC LTD

Dated: April 25, 1985

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U.S. suggests date for talks on new Gatt round

By CHRISTIAN TYLER, TRADE EDITOR

THE U.S. is stepping up the pressure on other countries to commit themselves by the end of the summer to global trade negotiations starting next year.

Mr. Michael Smith, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, said the U.S. will propose July 22 as the starting date of agenda preparations by a committee of senior officials from nations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The proposal will be put to a meeting of the Gatt governing council next week. The U.S. is confident that the economic summit in Bonn at the end of the same week, comprising the U.S., Japan, Canada, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and the EEC Commission, will endorse its hopes of a Gatt negotiation to start formally early next year.

Whatever the summit leaders decide, however, it would be for a committee of 18 Gatt nations, the Consultative Group — to the agenda preparation when it meets on May 13 and 14.

It is still far from clear that the Group will automatically approve the proposal.

Developing countries, especially Brazil and India, are still full of reservations despite an apparent softening of the line at last week's World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings in Washington.

A further complication is that the Gatt nations are not all aligned on the same side of the fence.

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S. African coal plant order for Voest-Alpine

By Patrick Blum in Vienna

VOEST-ALPINE, the Austrian state-owned steel, engineering and electronics group, and its West German subsidiary Korf Engineering, have won a contract to build a major coal-reduction plant in South Africa.

The contract was signed with Iscor, the South African steel company, and the total cost of the project is expected to exceed Rand 110m (£48m).

The two companies will supply the equipment, build and commission the plant on a turnkey basis.

Several South African companies will also participate in the project, although the lion's share of the work will go to the Voest companies.

The contract was won after several test trials carried out in West Germany. The process to be used in the plant was developed by Korf Engineering.

The company said that its process could cut production costs by more than 30 per cent compared with that of traditional plants.

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Singapore in CoCom hi-tech pledge

By CHRIS SHERWELL IN SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE has become the first country outside Nato and Japan to say publicly that it is ready to co-operate with the U.S. to prevent the diversion of sensitive high-technology products to Soviet-bloc countries.

The announcement was made unexpectedly by Dr Tony Tan, Minister of Finance, and aimed at blunting U.S. concern that such strategic technology could leak through Singapore, a free trading island state which has rapidly achieved a sophisticated level of economic development.

It also comes at a time when officials expect approaches from Washington to sign a bilateral agreement similar to ones which are said to have been reached with Sweden and Switzerland, but which have remained unpublished.

Such agreements, if they exist, are under negotiation, aim to control the export of goods to countries on a restricted list compiled by CoCom, the

A high-ranking U.S. Defence Department official has accused a Congressional subcommittee of obstructing efforts by the U.S. Administration and the Western allies to keep sensitive high technology out of the hands of the Soviet Union, AP reports.

Mr Richard Perle, assistant defence secretary, denounced an amendment approved by a House of Representatives panel to bar funds to increase the staff of the U.S. delegation to CoCom, the allied

organisation that decides which high-technology items can be sold to Communist countries.

"I am concerned that this committee would undertake the action seeking to reverse that commitment," he said in testimony to the House foreign affairs subcommittee on international economic policy.

The committee has argued that tighter controls may stifle U.S. competitiveness with allied nations.

Several so-called Newly Industrialising Countries (NICs), Dr Tan clearly chose a highly appropriate occasion to offer Singapore's reassurances — the ceremonial opening of a \$50m (41m) microchip design and fabrication facility built for the Italian group SGS. The facility is believed to be the first such integrated plant in Asia outside Japan.

He said Singapore was "well aware" of the industrialised countries' concern over the leakage of high-technology products, and went on: "Let me state quite categorically that there need be no misunderstanding between us and our friends on this issue."

"Singapore is prepared to co-operate not only with the U.S. but also with the other members of CoCom and to discuss the possibility of arriving at a mutually acceptable arrangement."

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Italy, Malta in move to end dispute on trade

By Godfrey Grima in Valletta

ITALY and Malta are shortly expected to launch a series of confidence-building measures to resolve their long-standing dispute over trade, and Italian economic aid offers to Malta.

This, apparently, was the outcome of last Friday's working lunch in Rome at which Italy's Premier, Sir Bettino Craxi, and Malta's new Prime Minister, Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, agreed on what steps to take towards a full restoration of economic, trade and political relations.

Dr Mifsud Bonnici said this week that he expected the first moves to be made "within days".

The key issue to the dispute has been a \$15m (£12.5m) Italian grant which Malta failed to utilise within the prescribed period at the end of 1983.

Additionally, Italy has made little effort to redress a constantly worsening trade imbalance in the exchange of goods with Malta.

In October last year the Government of Malta's former Premier, Mr Don Minoff, imposed a stringent ban on Italian imports and curtailed Maltese travel to Italy "to avoid a bad situation from becoming disastrous".

Since taking over as Prime Minister, Dr Mifsud Bonnici has been relying on less controversial diplomatic initiatives to mend his island's relations with Italy.

He appears particularly keen to enlist the Italian Government's backing in his quest for a second financial aid package from the EEC which is currently being negotiated.

Cable and Wireless faces Gibraltar franchise threat

By JOSEPH GARCIA IN GIBRALTAR

THE Gibraltar Government has warned Cable and Wireless that the UK that their exclusive communications franchise here may not be renewed when it expires in 1987.

The company handles international traffic, including telephones and telex, under a 15-year franchise agreement. It owns an earth satellite station.

An attempt by the local government to secure what they term a more equitable share of the income derived from such traffic has failed to make progress after several months of negotiations.

The Chief Minister, Sir Joshua Hassan, said in the Gibraltar House of Assembly that there had been disappointing results in the discussions with Cable and Wireless and that the Government may now

seriously consider alternative arrangements. He drew attention to the expiry of the franchise.

It is understood that British Telecom have shown a firm interest in co-operating with the Government here in the Cable and Wireless link with Gibraltar comes to an end.

Officials here are showing signs of wanting to have a direct control over international communications which is seen as a highly profitable enterprise.

The minister responsible for telephones, Mr Brian Perez, confirmed that the Government's attitude towards Cable and Wireless had hardened following the deadlock in the negotiations over the share of income. It was an unsatisfactory state of affairs, he said.

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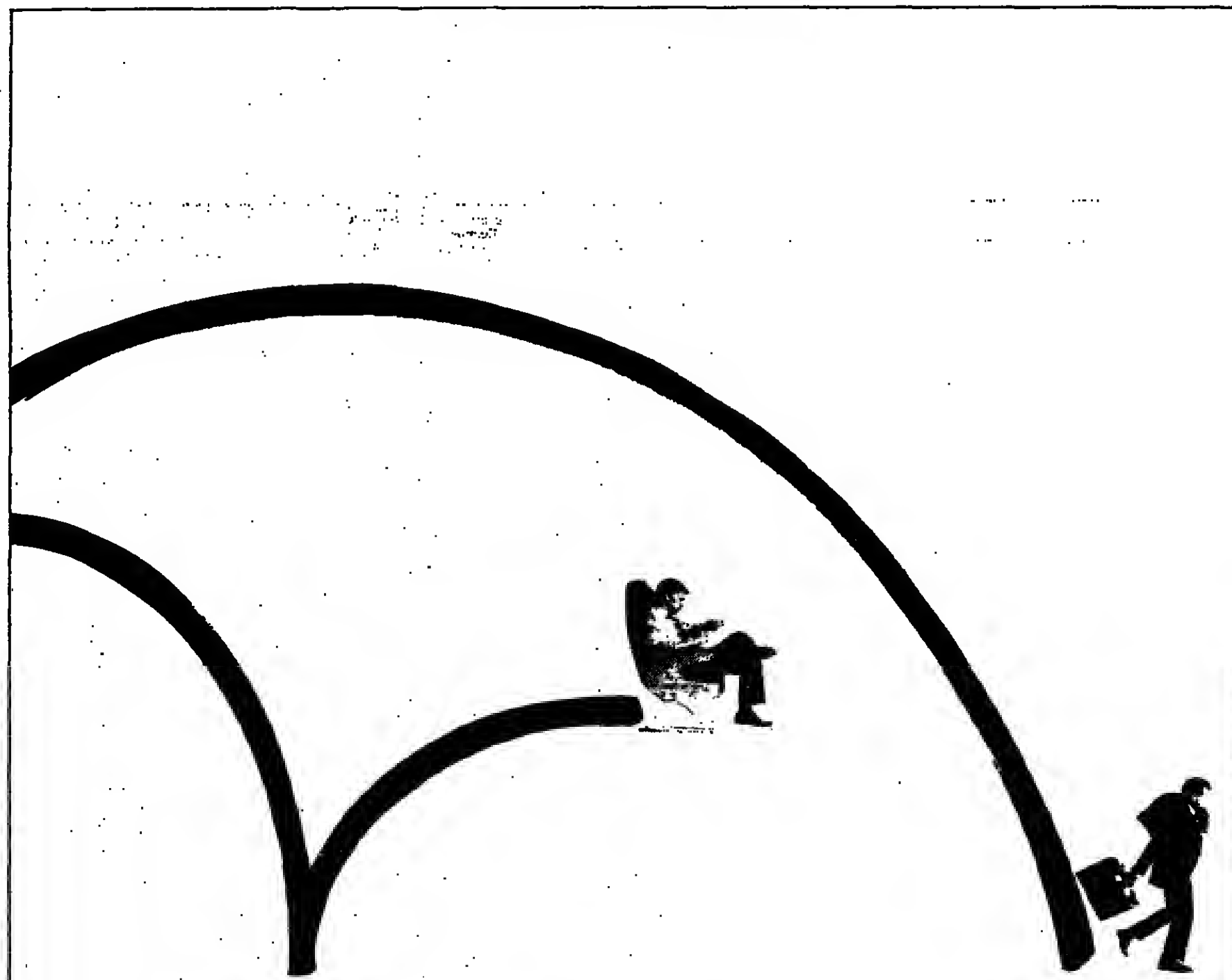
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Executive Director - Trading



Wellington,
New Zealand

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We have been retained to assist in the selection of an Executive Director - Trading, whose main responsibilities will be for the ongoing development of foreign exchange trading activities in corporate and interbank markets. At the same time, the successful candidate will be expected to continue the involvement with developing New Zealand's capital markets.

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of foreign exchange, futures and interest rate and currency swaps, having traded in international markets.

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In the first instance, please send a detailed Curriculum Vitae in confidence to: Roy Webb, Managing Director, Jonathan Wren International Ltd., 170 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4LX, tel: 01-623 1266, telex: 8954673 WRENCO.

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Internal Auditors

(Ref: 5959/B/L)

The company is currently increasing the activity and scope of its internal audit department. Opportunities now exist for both senior internal auditors and internal auditors with specific experience in financial, operational or computer auditing. Candidates must be qualified chartered accountants with experience within a large-scale process industry environment gained either as an internal auditor or through one of the larger professional audit firms.

For all the above positions, fluency in spoken and written English is essential. Highly developed personal skills are also important.

For all positions contracts will be negotiated on a two year renewable basis. Successful candidates should however be prepared to assist in the training of a local replacement should this be required.

Please reply with detailed c.v. to Neil Johnston, Executive Selection Division, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., 165 Queen Victoria Street, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3PD, quoting the appropriate reference.

PEAT
MARWICK

Senior Finance Managers

(Ref: 5959/A/L)

Five Finance Managers are required to fill a variety of senior positions with the group at both controller level in the operating subsidiaries and in line roles at headquarters.

Candidates must be qualified accountants, i.e. CPA, ACA or equivalent, with around 10 years oil, petrochem or related process industry experience. High levels of interpersonal, communicative and management skills are essential as is a proven record of financial management and control in a highly sophisticated computerised environment.

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a) **TECHNICAL SUPERVISOR**
Skilful and highly experienced with the following qualifications:-

1. Good knowledge and background about all the chemicals which are used in synthetic sport surfaces like polyurethane and other related chemicals and sources of raw materials.
2. Long experience in mixing and installation of the material required.
3. Capability of forming, training and supervising groups of workers to mix and install materials.
4. Knowledge of English language, speaking and writing.

b) **PROFESSIONAL SALESMAN**

Has long experience in marketing of synthetic surfaces for sports and good English language, speaking and writing.

Only candidates who bear the above qualifications are asked to write to the following address attaching certificates supporting their applications:

GENERAL MANAGER P.O. Box 22094, RYADH 11495, SAUDI ARABIA.

Successful candidates will be interviewed on the Company premises.

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All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

MANAGER TRADE DEVELOPMENT ZONE

The Government of the Northern Territory of Australia is developing a Trade Development Zone in Darwin to provide a focal point for the attraction of new industries and business activities. In particular those with strong international trade orientation. The Zone is essentially designed as an export-oriented manufacturing park with associated warehousing and service sectors.

The Trade Development Zone is similar to Foreign Trade Zones and Export Processing Zones throughout the world and as such is the first of its kind in Australia.

The drive to attract new economic activity to the area will exploit Darwin's proximity to South East Asia and other major export markets by offering business investors attractive facilities and a comprehensive package of industry incentives. The Zone is located on Darwin Harbour and combines ample availability of serviced land with ready access to Darwin's industrial and residential areas, port facilities and the international airport.

A statutory authority is being formed to develop, operate and market the Trade Development Zone, headed by a Chairman directly responsible to the Minister for Industrial Development.

The Government is seeking an individual of the highest calibre to fill the position of Zone Manager. The successful candidate will be a person with proven administrative and financial management capabilities and well-developed entrepreneurial flair. A background in the export manufacturing sector, previous experience in project development or in a foreign trade zone or its equivalent, and a working knowledge of Australian Customs operations would be a distinct advantage.

An attractive salary package will be negotiated. It is unlikely that the successful candidate will presently be in receipt of a salary of less than \$450 000.

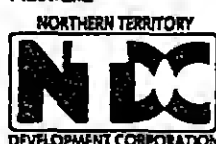
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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

A plea for enlightened recruitment

By Andrew Rowe and Adam Podes

BRITAIN'S Information Technology industry is facing crisis. Of that no one seems to be in doubt.

The Select Committee on Employment heard of hundreds, if not thousands, of vacancies for a whole range of jobs in the industry, even as unemployment marches on towards 4m. Marconi, the electronics subsidiary of GEC, told the Butcher working party that it "could use several hundred electronic engineers today." That same working party reported that between 1981-82 and 1983-84 demand for graduates in key areas would rise sharply—24 per cent for electrical/electronic engineers, 44 per cent for maths, 61 per cent for computer science and 21 per cent for physics.

If Britain cannot meet that demand, we can say goodbye to our promising IT industry. We already have a deficit of over £2bn in IT products and hardly need to be told by Hewlett Packard, the giant U.S. company that unless we can meet the demand for skilled recruits the fifth generation computers will be built elsewhere.

So what can be done? The Butcher working party is pinning its faith on a much better partnership between education and industry. The University Grants Committee and the National Advisory Body on Public Higher Education are being asked to identify their teaching needs so that industry can gauge what assistance can be provided, and the institutions are to identify their need for equipment. Teachers will be seconded more regularly and more carefully to industry and the whole business of giving students industrial experience is to be re-examined and good practice publicised. Excellent. But overdue and almost certainly far from enough.

Lessons on the other hand, can be drawn from a profession which traditionally seems to have little difficulty in attracting the necessary recruits.

The key features of accountancy recruitment and training include:

- The accounting firms carry most of the costs. Not for them the cry which goes up constantly from IT firms that it is not fair to train recruits only to see them go elsewhere. Some 50 per cent of new accountants leave to work with firms other than their training partnership.
- Conversion plays a vital part in accountancy training—only 30 per cent of recruits have studied "relevant" subjects in their first degree. Indeed, in the professional examinations, a higher proportion of recruits with non-relevant first degrees are successful than those with relevant subjects at undergraduate level. This will make the results of the recent Marconi experiment—in which the company offered conversion training to 60 arts graduates—particularly relevant. The new Information Institute at Cranfield is also aiming to "convert" 5,000 graduates per annum.
- Management training is an important part of courses for accountancy recruits. But it appears that this is not regarded as nearly as important in IT training. There is no doubt that the hope of realising management aspirations is a powerful inducement to potential recruits.

In spite of these encouraging features, the accountancy profession is not exemplary. Accountancy Personnel, the recruitment agency, this week reported that Britain is suffering at the moment from a serious shortage of young and partly qualified accountants. Explanations given include the failure of employers to train enough during the recession and the strong desire to recruit university graduates, which has made it more difficult to recruit those without degrees.

Personal qualities rank high in accountancy and there is evidence to suggest that the profession takes trouble and understands the need to recruit trainees with all-round qualities likely to be needed by managers in the future.

Across the whole field of recruitment and training, UK management's ability to assess personal qualities is lamentably underdeveloped. The result is a dangerous over-dependence on



academic qualifications. It is noticeable that, even at a time when IT firms are clamouring for graduate recruits, they remain strangely unwilling to look at graduates with lower than a 2.1 degree. This is particularly so with arts graduates willing to "convert." Yet, *prima facie*, the graduate who wants to switch disciplines is precisely the sort of individual likely to have under-performed in the examinations in his university discipline. Data published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants admittedly shows that there is a marked correlation between success in the profes-

sional examinations and degree class—but when 57.3 per cent of arts candidates with a 2.2 at first degree and 45.5 per cent with a third or a pass degree succeed in qualifying as accountants, perhaps a profession as hungry for recruits as IT should be less academically elitist in its recruitment.

Another marked distinction between accountancy and IT recruitment lies in the intake of women. Butcher pointed out that only 5 per cent of graduates entering IT were female, whereas women students now account for 25 per cent of the entry to accountancy. This sug-

gests that a determined marketing drive aimed at women is overdue.

Nobody can know with certainty how best to ensure an expanding stream of good recruits into any business. One element in the accountancy training programme which has no parallel in IT is the long period of off the job training. In three years, the trainee accountant does 22 weeks of full time study and it is common to do 12-15 hours of private study in addition to office hours. In IT, only about 5 per cent of entrants study for any length of time off the job and, in at least one major company, the introductory course lasts only one week.

That there is already a crisis in IT manpower is not in doubt. What is in doubt is the UK's ability to surmount it. In such a rapidly expanding profession, where the price of failure would be so huge, every effort has to be made and every possibility explored. In IT, 40 per cent of all firms do no training at all. Many of the rest appear mesmerised by academic qualifications on paper, male oriented and too little concerned with personal, as opposed to intellectual, qualities. It is in the interests of everyone in Britain to ensure a change.

Andrew Rowe is Conservative MP for Mid-Kent; Adam Podes is his research assistant.

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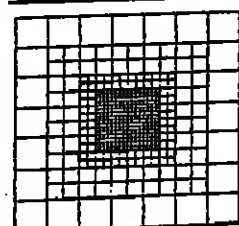
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The Report of the Committee and the Accounts which will be presented to the General Meeting are available to the Shareholders at the Head Office in Istanbul and at the offices in London and Paris.

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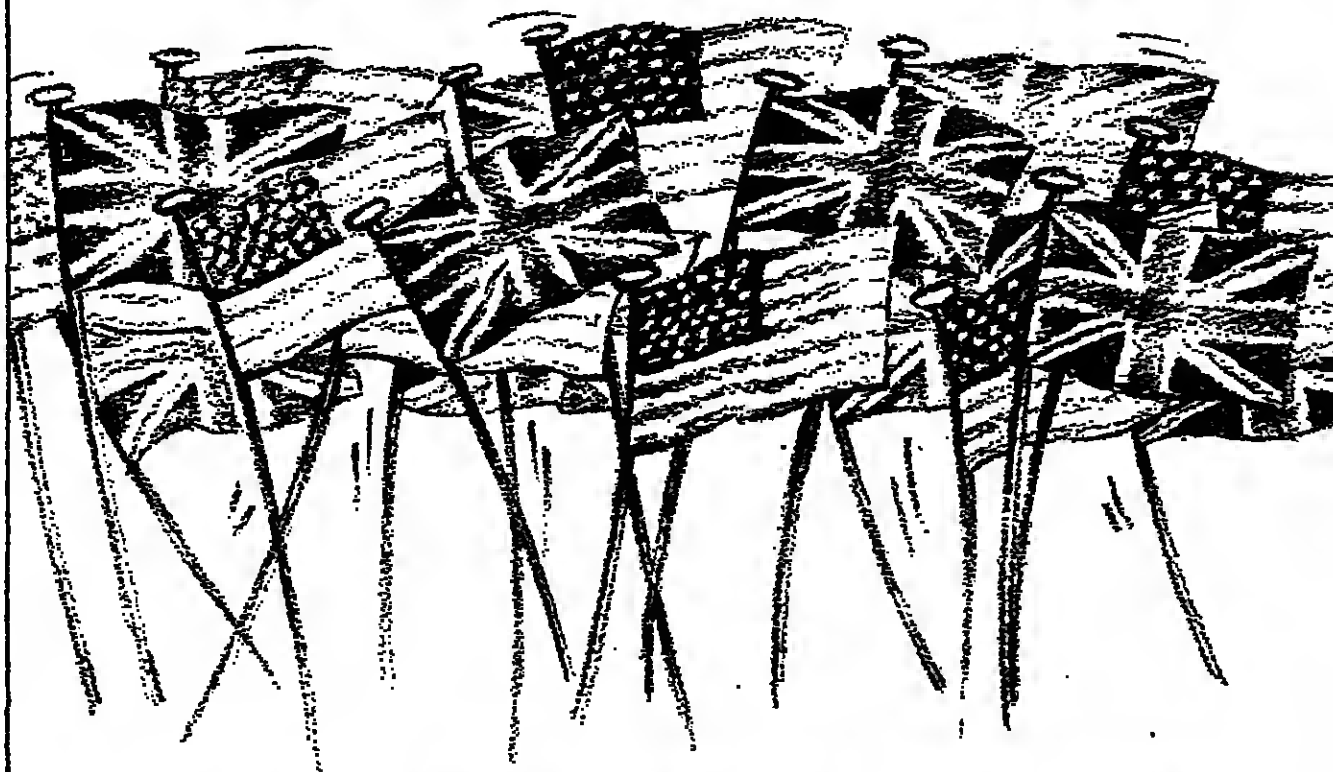
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83 6.4 (+42%)
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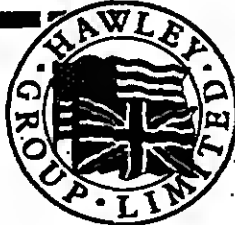
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AFRICAN AGRICULTURE

Techniques that give some ground for hope of easing a continent's food crisis

By Andrew Gowers, recently in Nigeria



A fertiliser demonstration in Katsina, a village in Nigeria

AMIDST ALL the gloom about Africa's worsening food crisis, there remains at least one small corner where optimism is not extinct.

Scientists at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture near Ibadan in western Nigeria are working on a range of vital techniques and technologies which they reckon could revolutionise farming on the continent's fragile soils.

In a way, the appearance of the Institute's 1,000-hectare estate speaks for itself. Its manicured lawns and tidily cultivated fields are worlds away from the sprawling conurbation five miles down the road, and from the derelict expanses of overgrown, unkempt land beyond.

Equally, with the dismal performance of African agriculture as a backdrop, the hopes expressed by IITA experts can seem as if they refer to another planet.

In the 20 to 30 years since most of sub-Saharan Africa emerged from colonial rule, food production has been increasingly out of line with the needs of a rapidly growing population.

Per capita food output has declined in 30 out of 35 black African countries, and in the 1970s the growth rate of food production was less than half the population growth rate.

Imports of essential foodstuffs have swelled up ever-increasing amounts of precious foreign exchange. Africa's grain imports doubled in volume and grew fivefold in cost during the 1970s.

The scale of the problem seems like a recipe for despair. But sceptics should be reminded of Asia—as the institute's staff are constantly reminding their visitors.

In the 1960s, Asia went through much the same crisis that Africa is experiencing now, writes Dr Ermond Hartmans, the institute's Dutch-born and -bred director-general. "But several Asian countries—all of them big importers of food—pulled out by adopting technology from national and international agricultural centres and by making a solid commitment to rural development."

Says Mr Rattan Lal, an enthusiastic Indian soil scientist at IITA: "What happened relatively quickly in Asia could happen here, I just know it."

Of course, such parallels should not be taken too far. As Dr Hartmans, himself, readily acknowledges, Asia's transformation was an altogether simpler affair, with many more odds in its favour.

"In Asia the Green Revolution dealt with two cereal crops—rice and to a lesser extent wheat—an abundance of water, relatively fertile deep soils and a well-developed infrastructure."

"Africa's Green Revolution is dealing with many crops, uneven water supplies, fragile, inherently infertile soils and an infrastructure that is largely poorly developed. It is an entirely different situation obviously calling for a different approach."

America's International Food Policy Research Institute agrees. In a recent report, it said: "The possibility of major technological breakthroughs in Africa now seems less likely than in Asia in the 1960s, if for no other reason than because Asian agriculture was dominated by young soils and the prospect of good water control, whereas African agriculture is dominated by old soils with little prospect of good water control for decades."

Nonetheless, IITA—founded in 1967 and funded along with 13 other centres around the world through a body known as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research—believes it is well on the way to defining an appropriate strategy.

It did not have much to build on. By comparison with the billions of dollars which have been spent on boosting yields and piling up food surpluses in the temperate countries of western Europe and North America, the problems of tropical agriculture have not had much attention. They include:

- The extraordinary vulnerability of the soil. When tropical forest is cleared for cultivation, the exposed soil generally experiences a change. Its acidity increases sharply, essential nutrients are leached out, and the finer surface particles, including vital organic matter, are swept away by erosion. In addition, the inevitable increase in surface temperature resulting from the removal of forest cover literally burns up any remaining biologically-useful material.

- The small size of most African farms. In Nigeria, for example, where much of the IITA's work has been concentrated, typical peasant families cultivate an average area of only one hectare, usually divided into three or more units separated by long distances. What is more, the average farm size has been declining in the past 10 years.

- Such subsistence farming will never generate enough food for Africa's booming cities. In fact, the IITA maintains that many traditional Nigerian farms of this size cannot even feed the families which run them.

- The diseases and pests which

thrive in Africa's hot and humid climate. The important root crop cassava has been particularly prone to both. In the 1960s, the threat came from African mosaic, an endemic disease in much of the continent, and the fast-spreading bacterial blight. Ten years later, a new menace appeared in the form of two exotic insects: the mealybug and the green spider mite.

Both creatures are native to the Americas, and were accidentally introduced into Africa in the early 1970s. By 1980, they had colonised virtually half the continent's cassava-growing areas, causing yield reductions of up to 60 per cent and estimated annual losses of \$1.8bn.

Since the expensive agrochemicals used to keep pests under control in more temperate countries are simply not available to most African farmers, the IITA has been forced to look for a different approach here, too.

The need for more resilient and productive crop varieties was the starting point for IITA's research, and root crops—capable of producing more calories per hectare than other foods—the initial priority.

For cassava, which provides more than half the caloric requirement for most Africans, the institute bred disease-resistant strains during the 1970s some of which are yielding up to three times as much as traditional varieties.

To attack the mites and bugs it has been seeking to introduce natural predators which keep the insects under control. IITA has also made striking progress with new techniques for breeding yams, another important staple in the African diet. Yam output in West Africa has been stagnant for the last few years owing to increasing production costs—particularly the losses involved in setting aside about one-fifth of the annual crop for seed.

By germinating small pieces of yam tuber in special nurseries, the Institute has found a way of boosting seed yam production about tenfold, achieving significant savings for farmers.

Other work has focused on breeding sturdy and high-yielding varieties of maize and protein crops such as cowpeas and soyabans.

But at least as important as the crops themselves is the cropping system. Traditional farm-

ing techniques have been identified by the IITA as the greatest single obstacle to increased food production in Africa.

Under the so-called "bush fallow" system followed by tropical peasants for thousands of years, farming is an unstable and unrewarding business. Typically, a farmer clears his chosen plot of land and plants cassava, yam and cowpeas, say, between bananas and cocoa trees.

But the familiar pattern of erosion and burn-up quickly takes over, so that the land becomes infertile within two or three years and probably cannot be cultivated again for another 10 to 15 years. The peasant must move on and start the same back-breaking process all over again.

Faced with the low productivity of traditional systems, some African countries, including Nigeria, have sought to boost food output by developing large-scale industrial farms.

The Institute has bred disease-resistant strains of cassava and has discovered how to boost seed yam output about tenfold

based on alien techniques and imported technologies.

The IITA believes this approach to have been entirely misguided. According to Dr Hartmans, inappropriate land-clearing techniques and soil management methods in Africa have led to erosion on a massive scale.

The Institute learned this lesson the hard way. Its research farm was originally built up on the basis of the soundest Western technology. But within five years of its inception, the land was deteriorating and crop yields declining fast; as a result, part of the estate is almost completely useless as farmland.

Says Dr Hartmans, "In a country in sub-Saharan Africa there has been a clearly visible increase in production that could be attributed to the adoption of a package of inputs based on new technology. The aim should be to change innovatively rather than replace traditional farming systems completely."

His researchers have come up with systems which, when tested practices—are applicable

to relatively small farms, conserve the tropical soil and do not demand sophisticated or expensive equipment.

The most important innovations advocated by the Institute are:

- A modest increase in average farm size from less than two hectares to about five.
- Some degree of mechanisation to reduce the sheer drudgery of the African farmer's life. The IITA has developed simple devices such as animal-drawn planting machines and a cheap three-wheel tractor.

- Alley-cropping. This entails literally growing field crops in "alleys" between trees and shrubs, clippings from which provide nutrients and cover for the soil. Alley-cropped fields at IITA have produced good yields from maize, cassava and other crops for eight years at a stretch.

- No-till farming, which virtually eliminates ploughing and harrowing of the land. Under this system, crop remains provide a so-called "mulch" of organic matter for the soil, through which the next crop is sown directly.

The refreshing thing about all these points is that they go beyond the customary debate about inadequate agricultural policies in Africa and address the practicalities of farming. That is not to say, of course, that the policy issues are not equally important. As one IITA official points out: "If production from Africa's small farms is doubled it would bring a considerable increase in food production. But to achieve this, the farmer must be assured that his hard work is going to be rewarded. He must be confident that if he produces more, he is going to get a fair profit."

If it thinks it has the answers to many problems of farming in the tropics, the Institute is far from complacent about getting them put into practice. Even proper government pricing policies for agriculture are not enough if adequate storage and transport facilities are not on hand.

Every week IITA officials are besieged by Nigerian farmers seeking help and advice. Their products are catching on increasingly within the country. But officials admit that their ideas have a long way to go before finding widespread acceptance in Africa.

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JOBS COLUMN

How top managers' pay ranges across Europe

BY MICHAEL DIXON

HERE, as I threatened a week ago, are the Jobs Column's indicators of top managers' salaries in nine European countries. The table is compiled from the survey by Executive Compensation Service, a subsidiary of the Wyatt group of international actuaries and management consultants.

My figures refer to only three kinds of manager in each place: chief executives, and directors of finance and of personnel. The full survey gives far more extensive information. Anyone wanting it should contact Heather Bowler of ECS at Avenue Roger Vandendriessche 18 (Box 9), B-1150 Brussels, Belgium; telephone (02) 771 99 10, telex 65154.

No adjustment has been made for differences in cost of living from land to land. I have just taken the basic salaries, total money rewards including bonuses and the like, and annual values of "in-kind" perks such as cars as they were when ECS made the study last December.

But to converting the foreign currencies into sterling, I did some updating by using the exchange rates prevailing at the market close last Friday. By Tuesday night, the sterling values of the other currencies had risen slightly except for those of Germany and Spain, which were the same.

The left-hand set of three columns of figures gives the

averages for each job category in each of the countries which are ranked by the chief executive's average basic salary. Which of the other two directors comes next is also decided by average basic salary. By that criterion only Switzerland and France value personnel directors above finance directors.

The next three sets of three columns give an idea which averages do not—of the ranges involved in each case. The lower quartile is the basic salary, total rewards or perks' value of the person a quarter way up the ranking of all in the same category. The median refers to the person mid-way in the ranking and the upper quartile to the one quarter way down.

One of many things the table has not room to show is important for Britain whose high-tech industries complain of a damaging shortage of key engineers. The ECS survey suggests we value our top industrial engineers less than the other countries do.

On average, our engineering directors' overall pay (total money earnings plus perks) are only 52.2 per cent of those of our chief executives. The corresponding figures for the other countries are France 55.2, Germany 55.9, Italy 67.2, Belgium 58.6, Switzerland 62.5, Netherlands 63.9, Spain 70.8 and Portugal 73.2 per cent.

Country and job category	AVERAGE			LOWER QUARTILE			MEDIAN			UPPER QUARTILE		
	Basic salary £	Total money rewards £	Value of perks £	Basic salary £	Total money rewards £	Value of perks £	Basic salary £	Total money rewards £	Value of perks £	Basic salary £	Total money rewards £	Value of perks £
Switzerland: Chief executive	67,218	75,018	11,759	52,526	57,014	5,315	43,396	70,291	9,831	77,743	81,515	14,523
Switzerland: Personnel director	42,575	45,052	8,097	34,241	35,725	3,878	41,121	43,643	7,881	53,199	55,430	11,545
Switzerland: Finance director	40,592	43,546	6,548	33,452	35,033	2,726	40,146	42,463	5,205	46,758	47,074	11,041
West Germany: Chief executive	54,848	60,338	7,495	42,528	47,074	3,407	53,059	56,900	5,144	63,553	72,952	8,151
West Germany: Personnel director	34,817	37,495	4,674	28,268	29,659	2,101	33,243	36,317	3,482	40,655	43,761	5,384
West Germany: Finance director	33,269	34,614	5,589	26,408	28,601	2,263	30,918	32,947	4,460	41,170	42,283	8,208
France: Chief executive	48,241	54,586	3,994	37,389	39,228	1,422	45,337	49,696	2,809	57,493	65,184	4,928
France: Personnel director	29,161	30,479	2,388	24,168	24,635	1,075	27,467	29,564	2,192	33,880	35,241	3,515
France: Finance director	28,504	30,120	2,393	22,442	24,331	1,102	28,027	30,359	1,804	35,526	35,221	3,390
Netherlands: Chief executive	44,207	47,082	6,788	34,344	36,119	3,127	42,331	45,281	7,208	50,542	53,254	9,144
Netherlands: Personnel director	29,006	30,864	3,998	24,115	25,408	1,541	28,310	28,827	3,477	33,077	35,555	5,743
Netherlands: Finance director	27,373	28,209	4,540	21,146	21,954	1,405	27,571	28,439	4,163	34,113	34,216	6,847
Belgium: Chief executive	42,945	49,338	5,762	32,154	36,026	2,791	41,080	44,695	4,785	49,338	58,405	7,473
Belgium: Personnel director	28,209	30,585	3,215	22,174	22,842	1,711	27,537	28,996	2,928	34,315	34,877	4,270
Belgium: Finance director	27,949	29,453	2,932	20,566	21,505	1,350	27,293	28,424	3,379	34,868	35,215	4,167
Italy: Chief executive	40,897	45,846	3,903	32,077	33,874	1,781	37,959	41,752	2,491	49,282	54,473	3,801
Italy: Personnel director	28,759	31,355	2,438	24,840	25,550	854	28,292	30,718	1,473	33,732	34,247	2,345
Italy: Finance director	25,044	27,948	1,513	19,351	20,426	775	24,134	26,937	1,505	31,055	34,824	2,199
United Kingdom: Chief executive	39,550	43,700	7,940	29,200	30,010	3,990	34,430	39,280	6,460	48,310	53,910	11,580
United Kingdom: Personnel director	24,870	27,130	5,010	18,560	19,540	2,520	22,790	23,770	4,340	31,240	35,490	4,730
United Kingdom: Finance director	23,790	25,400	4,870	19,560	19,980	2,820	23,390	24,670	4,170	27,720	29,530	6,430
Spain: Chief executive	35,943	39,437	3,860	27,298	28,907	1,451	33,893	34,898	2,414	40,045	42,405	4,451
Spain: Personnel director	27,414	28,107	3,158	22,349	22,277	1,126	24,358	24,921	1,902	30,944	33,447	4,244
Spain: Finance director	24,540	26,181	2,645	20,563	21,395	577	22,930	24,670	1,688	28,167	30,721	3,600
Portugal: Chief executive	11,622	12,273	1,759	9,298	9,973	784	10,588	10,738	1,353	12,533	13,274	2,301
Portugal: Personnel director	9,294	9,718	1,540	7,185	7,443	753	8,454	9,203	1,224	10,729	10,902	2,027
Portugal: Finance director	9,157	9,376	1,472	7,681	7,909	674	8,864	9,039	1,164	10,664	10,301	1,984



Treasury Manager

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Suitable candidates, preferably in the age range 30-38, will have had experience in international banking or within the treasury function of a large international company. In addition to excellent communication skills and commercial awareness, candidates should have a sound knowledge of all facets of the foreign exchange market and possess the ability to negotiate substantial loans with the banking community.

Please apply directly to Jeff Groat at Robert Half Personnel.

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Manchester: 061-228 0089, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza.

Head of Forex Operations

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This is a very successful commercial bank with well established international branches. The headquarters are in New York. The bank is very active in the foreign exchange markets and has been growing particularly fast in London. An experienced Head of Foreign Exchange Operations is now needed to develop further this important administrative function in the London branch.

The Role:

The head of FOREX Operations will be responsible to the Chief Operating Officer of the London branch and work closely with the Head Dealer, the Financial Controller and Head of EDP. The task is to ensure that the most efficient support and controls are provided to the foreign exchange dealers and that an outstanding service is given to the bank's customers. As the branch continues to grow, additional responsibilities will be given to the successful candidate.

Qualifications:

Our client seeks an experienced Foreign Exchange Operations Manager, who will have dealt with a broad range of currencies and transactions. The ideal candidate should be able to deal with settlement, accounting and computer systems issues, manage staff and work effectively in a fast moving environment. Age is likely to be between 30-40. An individual of energy, leadership, ability and ambition is needed.

Compensation:

A very attractive package of cash and fringe benefits is offered and the long term opportunities and financial rewards within the bank will be substantial.

Please reply in confidence to:

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Please contact John Webster

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Please contact David Little

ACA's — MERCHANT BANKING

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Please contact John Webster

LOANS ADMINISTRATION OFFICER c£14,000

This is a new appointment with one of the City's more prestigious international banks. Responsibilities will include taking control of the daily activity of the loans department and reporting to the manager of the section. The bank seeks someone with strong man management skills combined with broad experience of multi-currency, syndicated loans and possibly some knowledge of acceptances and ECGD backed facilities. There will be very good opportunities for future career development.

Please contact David Little

Ridgway House,
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Full particulars and application forms may be obtained from: The Secretary to the Board of Governors, LINDISFARNE COLLEGE, Ryburgh, Wingham, Kent LE14 6LD

Closing date for receipt of applications: 31st May 1985

Major UK Institution

European Fund Manager

Our Client, the investment arm of a leading Accepting House, currently seeks a specialist European Fund Manager to complement the existing team and to take over the management of their highly successful European unitised funds.

The preferred candidate should be able to display a track record of successful Fund Management and at least three years' experience of Investment. A graduate with analytical training in a similar organisation or stockbroker would have the ideal background.

The importance of this key appointment to our Client will be borne out by the remuneration package negotiated. The preferred age range is 26-36.

Please write in the first instance to Alex Hurst, Chief Executive, Foster Turner & Benson Ltd., Chancery House, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1QU. All replies will be treated in the strictest confidence and no names will be released to our Client without permission.

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Our client is a leading U.S. bank with substantial world-wide operations, currently expanding its business with leading multinational companies and financial institutions.

It now seeks an ambitious Product Manager to be responsible for new product development in the Securities Industry, including market research, product identification, development and launch.

Candidates should be graduates aged 30 to 35 with a financial marketing or consultancy background, ideally including client contact with international investment and merchant banks. The post calls for a dynamic and creative individual possessing strong planning and communication skills.

Career prospects are excellent and benefits include a subsidised mortgage and a company car.

Please reply in confidence with full curriculum vitae including details of current remuneration and a contact telephone number to D.E. SHRIBMAN.

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An opportunity exists in the research department recently formed in Robert Fleming Securities for an assistant to the analyst specialising in European technology companies. This post will involve considerable travel in Continental Europe and offers the opportunity to become a member of a small but rapidly growing team.

The successful candidate will be a university graduate with at least one year's experience in a financial, commercial or industrial environment. A good command of German, both written and spoken, is essential.

Applicants of either sex should write enclosing a curriculum vitae to: Frank Smith, Robert Fleming & Co. Limited, 8 Crosby Square, London, EC3A 6AN.

Head of Corporate Finance London

A British merchant bank wishes to appoint a new Head of Corporate Finance. It has an excellent professional reputation, a broad range of banking activities and an established, profitable UK domestic corporate finance business, which it now intends to develop and grow.

The successful candidate will report to the Chief Executive and have total responsibility for the Corporate Finance Department. The task is to implement the bank's plan for the department's expansion.

An experienced Corporate Financier is needed for this key role, who will be an outstanding business developer and manager of a professional team. A notable track record in this sector of the City is essential.

This is a major appointment. An exceptional financial package is offered.

Please reply in confidence to:

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Prudential Portfolio Managers (PPM) is the investment management subsidiary of Prudential Corporation and has over £15,000 million under management. These funds are managed on behalf of a wide range of clients, including unit trust investors, pension fund trustees, and investment bond holders. We need to keep them all fully informed about the progress of their investments. Maintaining the high standard of service that is expected from this country's largest investing institution, could well be an opportunity for you...

As a result of continued expansion, we are looking for a marketing executive to join the investment services team which is responsible for the writing and production of a wide range of written reports and direct presentations to PPM's clients. It's a job that calls for specific attributes... In the first place, a keen interest in the workings of the economy and the factors affecting the investment markets is essential. This is because much of our time is spent analysing stock market conditions and explaining the investment strategy being followed by PPM.

You will also need to communicate effectively in writing to a wide

variety of audiences. Our regular investment reports have to attract and hold the interest of readers who will not themselves be investment or financial specialists.

Finally, you will have the opportunity to present these findings and financial forecasts at high-level presentations. You will deliver and discuss PPM's investment policies to both internal and external groups of key clients.

The role is both demanding and wide ranging in its brief. Ideally the candidate will have at least 2-3 years' experience in the financial services or marketing fields during which time he or she will have accumulated the necessary skills. A mature-minded, confident and self-motivated innovator will contribute directly to PPM's marketing activities and will have the opportunity to develop their career within this dynamic financial services organisation.

An attractive package will be negotiated up to £15,000 per annum and fringe benefits include a subsidised mortgage scheme and non-contributory pension.

Please write with full CV including salary to date to: Alistair Turner, Personnel Officer, Prudential Portfolio Managers Ltd., 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH. Tel: 01-405 9222 ext 6671.



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27-45

Our client, a major financial services organisation, seeks an experienced person with at least 5 years' proven UK Equities Fund Management experience, and a comprehensive knowledge of other Investment Sectors.

This important and demanding role, with high visibility to both senior management and clients, has specific accountability for a very substantial equity portfolio and overall responsibility for investment portfolio pension funds. The clients are major companies and there will be a key involvement in the development of new business opportunities.

Candidates must be able to demonstrate an impressive track record in investment performance and effective client contact and be capable of making a significant contribution to investment policy. First class communication and inter-personal skills are essential together with possession of a relevant professional qualification.

For the right candidate the initial remuneration will be in excess of £30,000 p.a. with the expectation of performance reviews. A first class benefits package will include a company car and mortgage subsidy.

Please supply a detailed c.v. which will be forwarded direct to our client. List separately any companies to whom your application should not be sent. M. Horden ref. B.1988.

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Major U.S. Bank Capital Markets Marketing

The investment banking subsidiary of a major New York bank is undergoing a period of considerable expansion in its London-based activities. As part of this growth they seek an experienced marketer to develop business in Southern and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

At Assistant Director level, the role includes full responsibility for marketing capital market products, including primary and secondary bonds, hybrid instruments and swaps to major governments, corporate and financial institutions. It requires active involvement in all aspects of negotiation, structuring, pricing and syndication.

Candidates must have experience with all of these products and a good knowledge of the U.S. and U.K. capital markets. They will also have practical marketing experience in some of these geographic areas and be able to speak at least two European languages.

An excellent salary package including bonus and bank benefits is available to those with the necessary qualifications to succeed in this demanding role. Candidates should contact Chris Smith on 01-404 5751 or write to him, quoting ref. 3495, at the Banking & Finance Division, Michael Page Partnership, 23 Southampton Place, London WC1A 2BP.



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International Recruitment Consultants

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Assistant Treasurer

West of London

c.£25,000 + car

The scope and diversity of this £1 billion+ turnover British group's worldwide interests result in financial requirements which make considerable demands on Treasury expertise.

An Assistant Treasurer is required to deputise for the Group Treasurer within a small but highly professional team. You will be expected to make an immediate contribution to a whole range of treasury duties with particular emphasis on the structuring and negotiating of borrowing facilities for the group and its subsidiaries in the UK and overseas.

This is essentially both an active and advisory role demanding a significant contribution to major group projects and financings.

An honours graduate aged 26-35, with an ACA or MCT and/or an MBA, you should have at least five years' experience in either the treasury

or corporate finance department of an international group in which you have had primary responsibility in the liabilities management area. Alternatively, you will have gained experience in the corporate lending or project finance department of a major international bank. A proven track record is essential to enable you to build credibility and respect at senior levels in the financial community, both outside and within the group.

Flexibility, coupled with determination and self-reliance, must be allied to a thoroughly commercial outlook.

The negotiable salary is supported by a range of appropriate senior executive benefits including relocation assistance where necessary.

Please send full cv which will be forwarded to our client unopened. (Address to our Security Manager if listing companies to which it should not be sent.) Ref: R2030/FT.



PA Advertising

Hyde Park House, 60a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE.

Tel: 01-235 0080 Telex: 27874

JAMES CAPEL & CO. ECONOMIST

We are looking for a young economist to join our team to assist in the preparation of monthly reports on the UK economy. He/she must be able to analyse monetary, interest rate and macro economic trends and to write quickly and succinctly. A knowledge of econometric techniques and a post graduate degree would be advantageous. The remuneration package will reflect the priority we attach to this appointment. Please write in confidence, enclosing full C.V. and, if possible, examples of recent written work to:

Keith Jones

James Capel and Co., Winchester House
100 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1BQ



MARKETING DIRECTOR Salary £35,000+

The Meat and Livestock Commission is a statutory body publicly accountable through the Agriculture Ministers for providing services to enhance the efficiency of the Livestock and Meat Industry. This includes the promotion of meat and meat products.

The Commission's annual expenditure on services to improve meat marketing exceeds £9 million, of which £6+ million has been spent by the Meat Promotion Executive. The Commission

has now authorised the appointment of a Marketing Director to integrate and manage all aspects of its marketing work with the objective of improving existing markets for British meat at home and abroad, and developing new ones.

Those with the necessary experience and personal qualities to handle such a remit are invited to write personally to the Director General by Monday 13 May clearly stating why they should be appointed to the position.

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
PO Box 44 Queensway House Bletchley Milton Keynes
MK12 2EF Telephone Milton Keynes (0908) 74941 Telex 82227

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Applicants will handle new business negotiations for our main products, Confidential Receivables Financing, Factoring and Stock Financing. They should have a thoroughly professional outlook, be highly self-motivated and determined to succeed in a stimulating environment. A high degree of communication skills and the ability to negotiate successfully

at top management level are equally essential prerequisites of the appointment. Applicants should ideally possess a degree or a professional qualification (Banking Diploma or Accountancy). Product training will be given. It is unlikely that anyone under the age of 25 will have the necessary experience required.

The post carries a highly competitive salary and an attractive benefits package which includes company car, mortgage subsidy, free health and life insurance, and relocation expenses where appropriate. There are excellent opportunities for career advancement.

Please apply with c.v. to: Neil Livingston Marketing Director



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Please apply by phone or in writing to:

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The firm has an established reputation for research and dealing expertise in the Pacific Basin region and the successful applicants will receive full in-house support.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The ideal candidate will have relevant experience in Far East stock markets. We would also consider applications perhaps from journalists or accountants with a broader regional experience. The successful candidates will certainly have flair, an appetite for success and the desire to travel.

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26-32, will be commercially minded, have had experience in a demanding business environment, and have the personal skills to make recommendations to management at Chief Executive and Board level. Applicants should have a good honours degree, preferably in a numerate subject. A formal accounting qualification or an MBA is essential.

The position is based at our superb new offices located in Winklesham, an attractive Surrey village close to the M3.

Please apply in writing giving full details of qualifications and experience to Ms. T. McKay, The BOC Group, Hammersmith House, London W6 9DX.

THE BOC GROUP

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UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING - LECTURES IN SMALL BUSINESS

Applications are invited for more of the following areas: Small Business, Small Business in the Community, Small Business in the Environment, Small Business in the Future, Small Business in the Past, Small Business in the World. The Foundation, based at Stirling University, was formed to assist in the development of small business in Scotland. It functions in a dynamic and demanding environment and will accept applications from graduates and postgraduates. The appointments will be for three years initially and may be extended. Salary within the scale £7,520-£14,925 under review. Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae together with the names of three referees to the University Secretary, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA. Tel: 0786 73171 ext 2314 from whom further details are available. Closing date for applications: 13 May 1985.

Pensions Director

A multi-business organisation based in the UK but operating world-wide requires a Pensions Director at the company's head office in North West London.

The job is wide-ranging and requires the applicant to have a sound knowledge of the administrative, actuarial, legal and financial matters (including investment) relating to self-administered schemes, mainly in the UK and USA.

Applicants for this important senior appointment should be aged ideally between 35 and 45, be a graduate in a relevant discipline or professionally qualified, and currently managing a substantial pension scheme.

Additionally, applicants should have sufficient experience in the company secretarial and/or finance role so as to be Secretary to the Trustee Board and be able to co-ordinate internal pension benefit systems and external advisory services. Initiative, creativity and personal qualities to devise and pursue new policies on benefit planning are also requirements.

The salary will reflect the importance of the appointment. Other benefits include a company car, medical scheme and relocation assistance (if necessary).

Please write, giving brief details of age, qualifications, experience and salary to: E.G. Jones, Director of Personnel, Smiths Industries PLC, 785 Finchley Road, Childs Hill, London NW11 8DS.



SMITHS INDUSTRIES
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F/X & MONEY MANAGER

New York

Our Client is a wholly-owned subsidiary of a prominent UK Merchant Bank, and forms an integral part of the bank's global trading activities.

Our brief is to locate and identify a senior foreign exchange manager who will assume responsibility for the control and development of the trading operation, with a direct reporting line to London.

Ideal candidates will be in their 30's with a successful dealing background in both foreign exchange and euro-currencies, preferably with some experience of the newer trading instruments.

This is a senior and highly challenging appointment with a professional institution of substance and may be offered either on a permanent or a contractual basis. It will be accompanied by a salary and overall compensation package which reflects fully the importance placed upon it by our Client.

Contact Norman Philpott in confidence
on 01-248 3812

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60 Cheapside, London EC2, Telephone 01-248 3812 3 4 5

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Please write with full curriculum vitae to:

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Balfour & Manson, Solicitors

58 Frederick Street, Edinburgh EH2 1LS

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The successful candidate's responsibilities will include some very attractive accounts basically covering the UK markets. This is a new appointment as a result of sustained growth and offering a first-class career opportunity with a leading American firm whose research record and reputation are outstanding. Remuneration is unlikely to prove a problem for the right candidate and a substantial package will be negotiated.

Please apply in strictest confidence to Jock Courts, Career Plan Ltd., Chichester House, Chichester Rents, Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1EG, tel: 01-242 5775 or Anthony Jones on 01-348 3641 between 7.30 and 9.30 pm.

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Our Client, based in the City, is a leading International Bank. This appointment carries Assistant Vice President status with managerial responsibility for an important area of the Bank's operations.

The successful applicant will be responsible for payments and cashier staff, sterling money transmission and clearing for services. There will be a requirement to contribute to the development of clearing structures and manual and computerised systems within the department. Sound interpersonal skills will be essential so that a contribution can be made to relationships with staff, customers and other banks.

If you can demonstrate successful career progression in the Payments function over several years and believe that you can make a positive contribution to this important appointment at a time of exciting development please write to or telephone: Derek A. Burn, M.C.P. Consultants, Halton House, 20 Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. (01-405 9000) to arrange an informal discussion in strictest confidence.

MCP Consultants
Financial Sector Human Resources

Regional Manager Expand our Banking Relationships

London is the European Headquarters of this dynamic, major International Bank. In line with their planned expansion, they have created an exciting new position for a Regional Manager Banking Relationships.

Reporting directly to a senior member of the management team, your main responsibility will be to manage and develop established and new banking relationships in the UK and Ireland. Furthermore, through liaison with Head Office and other geographic marketing groups within the Bank, you will co-ordinate and direct the development of banking relationships within the European Division. An important aspect of your role will also be to make recommendations on services and take responsibility for improving current banking business lines.

Aged 30-45 you will have a minimum of ten years' international banking experience which will include at least three years' direct marketing to banks in the UK or Europe. Ideally a graduate or AIB, you are a natural self starter and enjoy taking the initiative and achieving success. Additionally, you will have good communications skills and the ability to interface both internally and with other banks.

This is a key role within the Bank and salary will be competitive, reflecting both your experience and potential. The excellent benefits package will include a company car, mortgage subsidy, profit share, BUPA, etc. Please telephone or write to Garima Leon of Cripps, Sears & Associates Ltd, Personnel Management Consultants, 88/89 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LH. Tel: 01-404 5701.

Cripps, Sears

MANAGING DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE SEARCH

Our client, a major International Executive Search Group, seeks to recruit a Managing Director for its long established London office.

Candidate requirements can be summarised as:-

- experience as partner or senior consultant in the UK with a professional executive search firm of high repute
- bottom-line consciousness
- age range 35-50

Our client would particularly like to hear from someone having an interest in entering into a licence agreement.

Please write in confidence mentioning the names of executive search firms to whom your interest should not be disclosed:

The Partnership Secretary,
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MANAGERS

International financial services organisation requires several managers for London and overseas branches. Proven track record in developing and directing new branch operations/money management and people management skills requisite. Ability to travel/relocate; immediate start; superb financial package.

Apply with full cv. to Box A8990, Financial Times
10 Cannon Street, London EC4A 3BT

Robert Fleming

Banking Executive

Treasury/Corporate Business Development
Hong Kong

Robert Fleming & Co. Limited is looking for an executive to join Jardine Fleming & Company Ltd. to take overall charge of the existing activities of its Treasury/Corporate Banking Dealing Desk with special emphasis on the development of the Desk's Asian regional activities. Additional responsibilities will involve the development of a capital markets instrument trading desk for both Hong Kong and international issues. Although the initial assignment will be in Hong Kong for a period of not less than two years, the successful candidate will become a member of Robert Fleming's International Banking Group which is based in London.

Candidates should be in their mid to late twenties with a background of trading in foreign exchange and money market activities and in addition should have some experience in the fields of corporate business development and/or capital markets. A full expatriate benefits package will be available in Hong Kong, including a salary and bonus commensurate with qualification, experience and performance.

Applicants of either sex should write enclosing a curriculum vitae to: Frank Smith, Robert Fleming & Co. Limited, 8 Crosby Square, London, EC3A 6AN.

Chartered Accountant

c.£14,500 + substantial banking benefits
London + overseas travel

Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York is acknowledged throughout the world as one of the premier corporate banks with branches in every major financial centre and assets in excess of \$60 billion.

We utilise a wide range of sophisticated data processing, telecommunications and information systems to aid our extensive business activity.

We are now looking for a young high-calibre Chartered Accountant to join a small team and to assume individual responsibility for projects in Europe and the Far East. This will involve providing systems audit and consultancy services, standards and training to branches and affiliates, which will naturally entail overseas travel (circa 25%).

Your recently gained professional qualification will be complemented by experience of systems development in the financial sector. As the position

involves substantial exposure to senior management you must possess sound interpersonal skills. Leadership qualities and the ability to adapt to new situations quickly will also be of paramount importance.

In addition to the salary of around £14,500 p.a. we are offering a substantial package of banking benefits which includes profit sharing bonus, low interest mortgage facilities, non-contributory pension scheme and medical and life insurance plans. The opportunities for advancement within the Bank are excellent and indeed proven.

Please write enclosing a detailed CV to: Jim O'Donnell, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, PO Box 161, Morgan House, 1 Angel Court, London EC2R 7AE.

The Morgan Bank

PUBLIC RELATIONS/INVESTOR RELATIONS ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Financial Strategy Limited, the financial and corporate communications arm of Addison Page PLC, is looking for high calibre account managers. The company is a leading City consultancy and has an outstanding record of success and growth.

Account managers will join teams working on a range of accounts comprising well-known and highly respected public companies and financial institutions. To that end Financial Strategy requires people with experience, a record of high performance and integrity.

The remuneration package, which will appeal to highly motivated people, is backed by the resources of one of the largest quoted companies in the sector.

Please send your CV to:
Tony Knox, Managing Director,
Financial Strategy Limited, 19/20 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7EP.

SENIOR CREDIT MANAGER - CREDIT CONTROLLER

This vacancy calls for excellent skills in balance sheet interpretation, encompassing major asset equipment finance, with emphasis on U.K. and European transactions. French and German fluency is desirable as travel to both countries is envisaged. Age about 35 years, U.S. credit trained. Salary negotiable to £28,000 + benefits.

We also seek substantial big company risk assessment — proposals experience. The successful candidate will assume total responsibility for controlling and reviewing equipment finance/leasing transactions (European and U.K.) together with some U.K. property involvement. Age about 40-45 years. Salary package negotiable to £30,000 p.a.

Please Contact: Brian Gooch

CAPITAL MARKETS

£Neg.

A major International Merchant Bank seeks to fill a newly created position as part of their expansion programme. The successful applicant will be expected to assist in the development of the bank's activities, primarily in the capital markets area. It is envisaged that the responsibilities will be split between general involvement in these markets and the legal requirements thereof. Ideally, candidates will be graduates in their mid 20's and currently working with a Merchant or Investment Bank, or a major City Practice.

Please Contact: David Williams

ASSISTANT FUND MANAGER - PACIFIC BASIN £15,000-£20,000

Investment analysts with at least 3 years experience of Far East markets and seeking to further their career with a major City based investment team, are invited to apply for this position. Candidates should be graduates and have particular knowledge of Japanese stocks. They will be in their mid to late 20's and are not likely to be earning less than £15,000 p.a. at present. A competitive salary and benefits package is available, and will include a mortgage at preferential rates.

Please Contact: Roger Steare

All applications will be treated in strict confidence.
JONATHAN WREN & CO. LIMITED, 170 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4LX.
Tel: 01-623 1266

Jonathan Wren
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PERSONNEL MANAGER TO £20,000

Plus Banking Benefits

This appointment, with a Major European Bank in the City of London, offers a very attractive career development opportunity to experienced, enthusiastic personnel generalists in their mid-thirties. Reporting to the Vice President - Personnel, the candidate selected will have day to day responsibility for running the Personnel Office comprising 4 Officers/Administrators.

Major responsibilities will include organisation, development and control of staff personnel matters including: Recruitment, Job Evaluation and Salary Administration, Performance Appraisal, Payroll Records and S.S.P. A knowledge of computerised Personnel Systems will be advantageous and an immediate contribution will be expected to the development of a Personnel Policies Manual and Staff Handbook.

The successful applicant will have a professional approach to the Human Resources Function and is likely to have five or more years generalist personnel experience.

If you consider your skills may be of interest to our clients and you would like to discuss the above appointment in strictest confidence please send your C.V. to Derek A. Burn, MCP Consultants, Halton House, 20 Holborn, London EC1N 2JD.

MCP Consultants
Financial Sector Human Resources

INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS

Our client is one of the U.K.'s leading Accepting Houses. Its capital markets division is recognised not only as one of the leaders in its field but as a highly innovative force in this competitive market. Rapid expansion of these activities has created openings for two professionals to join the business development/new issues group....

JAPANESE MARKETING £25-35,000

The applicant must be a top calibre person able to contribute immediately by developing and arranging capital market transactions. This is a high profile role involving frequent contact with the London and European offices of Japanese securities houses, insurance companies, banks and industrial companies. The successful applicant will also liaise closely with the Bank's Tokyo office in the development of its Japanese business. Applicants will have at least three years' capital markets experience; previous experience in the Japanese market is preferable, but not essential.

YOUNG CAPITAL MARKETS SPECIALIST to £25,000

Working as part of a team responsible for a particular geographic area, the successful applicant will become involved in the full spectrum of capital markets products. This is seen as a particularly broad role, assisting in both business development and the actual execution of new issues. This is an ideal opportunity for a top calibre person with relevant experience who is seeking their first career move.

For both these positions, we are seeking highly-motivated individuals who possess a high degree of numeracy, creativity and deal orientation together with proven interpersonal and analytical skills. Opportunities for career development are excellent.

In the first instance please contact Felicity Hother on 01-588-6644, or send a detailed C.V. to the address below. All enquiries and applications will be treated in strict confidence.

Anderson, Squires Ltd.,
Bank Recruitment Specialists
85 London Wall, London EC2

Anderson, Squires

International Treasury London SW1 £20,000-£25,000+benefits

Our client is a worldwide manufacturer of business products and systems, marketing a wide range of prestigious brand names with an impressive growth record both organically and by acquisition.

The International Headquarters of this Fortune 500 Group now requires an Assistant Treasurer Specific responsibilities will include:-

- ★ International and UK funding arrangements
- ★ Cash management and foreign exchange dealings
- ★ International and UK financing reporting

The ideal candidate will be a graduate Chartered Accountant, aged 28-32 and should have a familiarity with international tax. Previous treasury/banking experience is essential and a good working knowledge of either French or Spanish would be an advantage.

The attractive salary and benefits package includes a company car and progress will only be limited by your personal performance.

Applicants should write to Andrew Sales FCCA, Executive Division, enclosing a comprehensive c.v., quoting ref. 237, at 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HY.

MP
Michael Page Partnership
International Recruitment Consultants
London Bristol Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow
Brussels New York Sydney

TWO EUROBOND DEALERS £22,000 - £30,000 + BONUS

Our client is a major merchant bank with a worldwide branch network. Rapid expansion in their dealing activity has resulted in their current requirement for two proven and experienced Dealers to join their dynamic existing team. Candidates should be in the age range 25-30 with at least two years' Eurobond dealing experience (involvement in PRNS equities would be an additional advantage) and have the drive, ambition and flair to succeed in this highly challenging environment. These positions fall within a targeted growth area in the company and advancement prospects are excellent. Starting salaries will be supplemented by an excellent array of banking benefits.

ACCOUNTS/PERSONNEL MANAGER TO £18,000 + BONUS

An exciting opportunity to join a highly reputed City Merchant Bank with a brief to run their accounting facility and perform a complete administrative and personnel support function within the company. The successful candidate will report directly to the Deputy General Manager and be responsible for the direction of a team of 10 staff engaged in Accounts and Administration. Applicants should be in their mid-thirties, currently at assistant managerial level, preferably with ACA/ACCA qualifications and a sound grasp of modern computerised accounting in a banking environment. Initial salary will be supplemented by a full range of banking benefits.

Interested candidates should contact
ANDREW AVENELL on 01-236 8192
JAC RECRUITMENT & EMPLOYMENT
23 COLLEGE HILL LONDON EC4

JAC

ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL SPECIAL TRUSTEES

The Special Trustees require an Administrator with appropriate experience in the investment and management of a large charitable fund used to support research, education and health care projects in the Hospital and surrounding community. Salary will be in line with the Scale for District Administrators in the NHS (currently £22,950 to £25,957, inclusive of London Weighting).

Further details may be obtained from the present Administrator, Mr. J. L. W. Elcombe, who is retiring in September, at the following address:

Special Trustees, St. Thomas' Hospital, London
SE1 7EH or telephone 01-928 4506
Closing date for applications 17th May 1985

01-499 9175

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Management in Banking Services

Up to £20,000+car

Over the last 14 years Allied Hambro have launched some spectacularly successful products - one of the most successful being our Financial Management Programme (FMP). In the 18 months since it was launched, this revolutionary concept in financial services has proved to be exceptionally popular.

The secret of its success is a highly structured, comprehensive range of facilities that offer a wide service covering virtually all types of financial need.

Under the FMP, the client's money is held in a trust which will support the Head of Bank's view on the market, independent lending and overdraft facilities, and the FMP's own view on the market - generally, all necessary services and risk assessment.

For this challenging role, we are looking for a professional banker with at least 3 years' relevant banking experience. Someone who is capable of making a positive and constructive contribution to the development of systems, procedures and methods as well as staff training. Relevant experience of commercial banking, staff training, and a knowledge of credit card operations would be an advantage.

Working with Allied Hambro, you can expect the security normally associated with a major bank, but with a deal of day-to-day involvement in a dynamic and exciting environment.

To apply, please write to Maureen Hunt at the Personnel Department, Hambro Life Assurance plc, Allied Hambro Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL or call her on Swindon (0793) 45344 (24 hour answerphone service).

ALLIED HAMBRO
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

HEAD OF CORPORATE PLANNING

ACA/MBA Late 20's c.£20,000 + car and bonus

Our Client, a profitable and progressive international manufacturing Group (T/O c.£600m.) seeks a Head of Corporate Planning based at their small and closely integrated Corporate Headquarters on the western outskirts of London. It is envisaged that within 12 months the successful candidate will assume responsibility for corporate development.

Candidates, probably aged 27-30, will either be CA's or MBA's with a good first degree, experience in a sophisticated planning or financial environment, the judgement and personality to relate effectively to senior Executives both internally and externally, together with the desire to establish a career in industry. A reasonable command of French would be a decided asset.

Confidentiality is assured until the job description has been discussed with candidates at interview. Relocation assistance will be considered and the employment conditions include BUPA and a non contributory pension.

Please send detailed CV to include current salary to Christopher Garfit at:

D. BRYAN ANDREWS ASSOCIATES
Executive Search and Management Selection
St. Martin's House, 29 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7BQ.

Financial Executives

Fast-paced diversified financial services organisation with varied worldwide interests has several openings for financial controllers/executives. Experience in broad range of corporate finance, cash mgmt, audit and computerisation of systems, coupled with proven ability to work in an unstructured environment are mandatory. Probable Brussels base with extensive travel. Immediate start. Superior financial package for the right people. Apply with full CV and salary history to:

Box A8879, Financial Times
10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

A FRESH START

We require executives aged 35-50 in London and the Home Counties to run their own show in financial sales. Superb training provided and no capital outlay required. Income is by commission and not limited. Benefits are provided.

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Richard Harris, FCA, at
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50 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JQ
or Tel: 0534 78289

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To cover currency resulting from share transactions for expanding international business. Knowledge of forwards, swaps and FX settlement essential. Age 20's.

R. Morley Esq
E. B. SAVORY MILLIN & CO
3 London Wall Buildings
London EC2M 5PU

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35 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH
Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576
Telex No. 887374 Fax No. 01-638 9216



Excellent prospects to progress to management level in 2-3 years

SENIOR CREDIT ANALYST - BANKING GERMAN-SPEAKING

£15,000 - £18,000 + mortgage

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL BANK - ASSETS IN EXCESS OF US\$50 BILLION

We invite applications from candidates, aged 25-30, with a degree and/or MBA, and at least 2 years' experience in credit and financial analysis, using computerised techniques. The successful candidate, who should be able to read and speak fluent German, will be responsible for the preparation and submission of detailed financial analysis and review of credit applications relating to six European countries and maintaining detailed records of the group's exposure in these areas. There will be close liaison with field account officers as well as international money market and correspondent banking counterparts in the group. Excellent report-writing and administrative skills are important in this key position, which will shortly be vacant due to an internal promotion. Initial salary negotiable £15,000-£18,000 + mortgage facility, non-contributory pension, free life assurance, subsidised BUPA. Applications in strict confidence, under reference SCA435/FT, to the Managing Director:

CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON ASSOCIATES (MANAGEMENT RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS) LIMITED, 35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH. TELEPHONE: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. TELEX: 887374. FAX: 01-638 9216.

FAR EAST FUND MANAGER

Fromington Group plc is seeking a Far East Fund Manager to replace Jill Smith, who is leaving shortly to join Hendersons.

The successful candidate will be responsible for an authorised unit trust (Fromington Japan & General Fund) and an off-shore fund (Fromington Far East Fund Limited) and will in due course have more extensive responsibilities as Fromington expands its institutional discretionary fund management capability.

The Fromington style is to give considerable autonomy to its fund managers with the objective of achieving outstanding long-term performance.

An ideal candidate would be aged between 25 and 35, a graduate, with reasonable experience of the Japanese and other Far Eastern stockmarkets, with a good track record in fund management, and with a preference for investing on fundamentals rather than market sentiment. We are confident that a satisfactory remuneration package can be agreed.

Interested fund managers should write to Tim Miller, Managing Director, Fromington Group plc, 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5NQ. It would be helpful to enclose a c.v.

FRAMLINGTON

BADENOCH & CLARK

INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE FINANCE

NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
c.£20,000 + Bens

Our client, a leading player in the Eurobond market, is looking to recruit a bright young graduate with at least two years' experience in U.K. corporate finance. Interested candidates in their mid-to-late twenties should have been employed in a Merchant/Investment Banking environment with experience of Corporate Finance sales. This may have been in a leading capacity but applicants should have knowledge of sophisticated financial products, and ideally an awareness of the legal aspects of international stock exchange listings. Personal qualities are heavily emphasised and applicants should have confidence in their ability to deal with clients and a desire to further their career in the dynamic Capital Markets field.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity further, please contact Christopher Lambie or Stuart Clifford. Strictest confidentiality assured.

STOCKBROKING CORPORATE FINANCE £15,000 - £20,000

A number of firms of stockbrokers, all well placed in the market prior to de-regulation, are looking to expand their Corporate Finance departments. Ideally, applicants should have been working for a member firm on S.E. and U.S.M. finance and related Corporate Advisory matters. We would also welcome applications from related A.C.A. based solicitors with exposure to Stockmarket oriented corporate finance. The successful candidates will enjoy an excellent remuneration package, including a substantial bonus scheme.

To discuss these opportunities, please contact Robert Digby.

Financial Recruitment Specialists
16-18 New Bridge St, London EC4V 6AU
Telephone 01-583 0073

Bain Dawes Credit Ltd.

Due to unique growth opportunities we have a requirement for an

Account Executive CREDIT INSURANCE/ POLITICAL RISKS

to service and develop Bain Dawes Credit business in the South. The position is likely to appeal to a self-motivated and ambitious person who is able to deal with clients across the full range of business and commerce. The successful candidate will be based in our London Office, and preferably should have had recent experience in handling ECGD business. A sound knowledge of Domestic Credit Insurance and related subjects would be an asset.

An attractive salary, Company car, pension and other benefits will be commensurate to the position. Confidential applications to:-

Mr. K. P. Henman,
Bain Dawes PLC,
Bain Dawes House, 15 Minories,
London EC3N 1NJ.



House of Commons (Department of the Clerk of the House) Select Committee Specialist Assistant

The Treasury and Civil Service Committee require a Specialist Assistant to cover economic questions. The duties will include giving specialist assistance to the Clerk of the Committee and undertaking research into specific questions. Applications are invited from candidates with a good degree or an equivalent professional qualification in a relevant subject together with several years' relevant practical experience. An interest in public administration would be an advantage. The preferred age range is 28-35 years and for a successful candidate within this range the salary is likely to be between £11,785 to £14,444 p.a. according to age, qualifications and experience. Applications from particularly well qualified candidates aged 25-27 will also be considered. The salary for this age group is likely to be between £9,793 and £12,029 p.a. There is a non-contributory pension scheme with interchange arrangements with other Public Service pension schemes. The appointment will commence on or as soon as possible after 1st October 1985 and will be for a period of between two and four years. Strict political impartiality is required of all House of Commons staff and the person appointed will be expected not to engage in political activities for the duration of the appointment. The House of Commons Service is an Equal Opportunities Employer. For further details and application form write to the Establishment Office, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, or telephone 01-219 5544 (answering service) quoting reference—2A/47. Closing date for return of application forms 17th May 1985.

ACCOUNTANT/ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Financial Services c £14,000 + benefits

Our client, The Iveagh Trustees Limited, is a privately-owned international trustee and investment management company with a wide diversification of interests. Due to continued growth, they now seek to recruit an experienced Accountant to take charge of a variety of non-routine assignments.

Reporting to the Directors you will assume responsibility for a broad spectrum of financial matters connected with stock market and property investments, trust and private company administration and personal tax planning. Candidates (aged 27-35) will have a sound record of achievement preferably within a financial organisation, together with the initiative and energy to succeed in this demanding role.

For further information please write, enclosing career details, or telephone Susan Ross:

FIFTH FLOOR MARTIN ASSOCIATES, WARDOCK HOUSE
58A LONDON WALL, LONDON EC2M 5TP - TELEPHONE: 01-628 2441

John Ross Martin

Fund Managers' Assistant CITY

This is a valuable career opportunity for a young graduate or equivalent with around two years' experience in Fund Management or other similar financial discipline.

Offering considerable potential for progression, the role entails providing assistance to Cornhill's specialist Fund Managers who cover a wide range of investment markets.

A competitive salary will be offered and additional benefits are in line with those you would expect from a leading insurance company.

Applications will be treated in confidence and should be made in writing including current salary to Nigel Still, Assistant Manager Personnel, Cornhill Insurance PLC, 57 Ladysmith, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1DB.

Cornhill
Insurance Group

ASSISTANT MANAGER CORRESPONDENT BANKING

A high profile City based bank who are expanding their international correspondent banking sector and are keen to speak to senior bankers who have offered this service overseas or have developed treasury business on the Continent or Middle East.

CORPORATE FINANCE £ neg.
The securities subsidiary of a leading international bank are seeking a corporate or commercial finance executive with 3-5 years' experience in liability and asset SWAPS to join a team developing this market.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT £25,000
An experienced banking accountant (a professional qualification would be an advantage) is being sought by an expanding international bank, to be responsible for the smooth running of the accounts, FX and Computer Operations.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEALERS £ neg.
Senior dealers currently dealing on the Spot, Forward and Deposit markets are being sought by a leading bank with active dealing rooms. Salaries are negotiable.

ARBITRAGE DEALER £ neg.
An experienced all round Foreign Exchange dealer who is a specialist or dealer regularly in this aspect of FX dealing, is required by a leading international bank.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANTS c. £15,000-£18,000
Banking or stockbroking experience is essential in two interesting positions in expanding situations in the City.

OLD BROAD STREET

BUREAU LIMITED

STAFF CONSULTANTS

01-588 3991

INTERNATIONAL ANALYST

£14,000 neg

Major Merchant Bank requires an ambitious graduate banker who has approximately 2 years' Corporate Credit Analysis experience. Working on international portfolios you will be expected to assess new business with particular reference to economic and sovereign risk. Excellent prospects are offered for further development into Marketing or Corporate Finance. Age 24/28, plus mortgage and bonus.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CALL
MIKE BLUNDELL JONES on
01-234 1113 (24 Hours)

PORTMAN RECRUITMENT SERVICES

Accountancy Appointments

Partnership Accountant Consulting Actuaries £18-£22,000

Our client is a large and well established firm of consulting actuaries with a countrywide and international network of offices. This new role is indicative of the growth of the organisation and its need to extend the present systems of financial control and the provision of management information.

It is a demanding position which will require a high calibre individual capable of taking an overview of the firm's long term business needs, who can then develop enhanced computerised accounting systems and procedures.

The successful candidate will be a qualified accountant in his/her early thirties who can demonstrate success within a profit orientated organisation. Experience of computerised accounting systems is important. Essential is the ability to grow with the job, potentially taking responsibility for subsidiary companies and some administration.

The position will be based at the firm's office in Liverpool with limited travel to London and other U.K. offices.

Candidates with drive and ambition who can fulfil this role should send a curriculum vitae to Anne Campbell (reference 52), Spicer and Pegler Associates, Executive Selection, St. Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BP.



Spicer and Pegler Associates
Management Services

Financial Controller Reinsurance London

Our client, a major insurance company, has recently established a new reinsurance company in London to operate on an international basis.

The financial controller will set up the accounting and management information systems and be a key member of the management team. There will be a requirement to be closely involved in the commercial decisions of the company.

Applicants, probably aged under 40, will be qualified accountants with some management experience in a reinsurance company.

A substantial salary will be paid, and there are excellent benefits. There will be advancement opportunities.

Please write in confidence to M J B Ping enclosing a detailed curriculum vitae, and quoting reference F1235/P, Ernst & Whinney Management Consultants, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU.

Ernst & Whinney

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER with commercial involvement

The Northern Foods Meat Group continues to be one of the most profitable companies in our industry. Having built 4 new factories, acquired 2 companies and invested heavily in 5 others, turnover has doubled to nearly £200m over the last 5 years. Committed to quality, we manufacture a wide range of fresh and frozen meat based products which are sold under our own brands and the labels of most of the major national quality retailers.

One of the largest of our 15 operating companies, Baron Meats of Walsby, has a turnover of £20m and employs around 400 people manufacturing quality own label and branded cooked meat products. As their Financial Controller you will be responsible for providing the financial management and budgetary controls required to meet the needs of this complex business. You will be ideally aged 28-35, qualified, with a

manufacturing industry background and have experience of computer based financial reporting systems. As essential as a high technical proficiency will be the intellectual, personal and managerial skills necessary to contribute on a wider commercial basis as a member of the small management team.

The salary, 2 lire car and other benefits reflect the seniority of the position and will certainly be attractive to the man or woman who demonstrates the ability to make an immediate impact on the business and the potential to take advantage of the future possibilities for career progression, both within the Meat Group and our parent company, Northern Foods plc.

Interested? Please write briefly, since application forms will be sent to selected applicants, giving details of your background, experience and current salary to:

Chris Edley, Personnel Director,
Northern Foods Meat Group,
Queens Drive, Nottingham NG2 2LL.

Northern Foods

Hoggett Bowers Executive Search and Selection Consultants

BIRMINGHAM, CARDIFF, GLASGOW, LEEDS, LONDON, MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE, SHEFFIELD and WINDSOR

Financial Controller/ Company Secretary

West of Scotland, c £17,000 + car

The opportunity for an experienced C.A. to join a profitable self-accounting subsidiary of a major U.K. group, with extensive interests in textiles. The successful applicant will have responsibility for all aspects of financial management within the business, and contribute as a member of a successful management team, to the continuing development of the business.

Candidates must have a career to date which covers all aspects of financial control and reporting within a manufacturing business, ideally processing raw materials. Sound inter-personal skills are essential, together with an objective and critical approach to the application of effective control systems and procedures. An excellent remuneration package includes generous relocation assistance and successful performance will lead to a Board appointment within 12 months.

J.C. Brown, Ref: 31718/FT. Male or female candidates should telephone in confidence for a Personal History Form 041-221 2585, 127 St Vincent Street, GLASGOW, G2 5JR.

ACCOUNTANT

INDEPENDENT SHIPPING COMPANY

Based in London, part of Independent Oil Trading and Shipping Group requires person to head its accounts department.

Qualification preferred but consideration given to relevant experience and exposure to mini/micro computer systems (IBM 36 in use). Remuneration: Salary negotiable, pension plan, BUPA, after qualifying period.

Please address replies to:

Group Shipping Financial Executive
c/o Box A8962, Financial Times
10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

Financial Controller...

for a leading mechanical installation
company

£15,000

This well established high integrity engineering construction Group is to appoint a Financial Controller for its £15 million, Cheshire based, parent company.

Candidates, who must be qualified ACMA's with experience in heavy engineering, project management or construction, will have the necessary personal abilities to manage and develop a small team involved in all aspects of cost and management accounting.

Responsibility is to the Financial Director for contract cost control, DP, management accounts, forecasting and systems.

The appointment requires a self starting, strong minded, shirt sleeves accountant with good experience of the key financial functions particularly computerised accounts. The ideal age range is 28 to 35. Success in this post could lead to further group-wide opportunities.

Candidates should write with full c.v., quoting ref. AR1067, to: March Personnel Services, 33 King Street, Manchester M2 6AA.

MARCH

PERSONNEL SERVICES

Young graduate ACA

£12,500-£15,000 + benefits : London + travel

This opportunity with a fast growing division of a major international company represents an attractive starting point for a career in industry.

Initially, the successful applicant will work at the centre on consolidations, acquisition investigations and internal audits. Thereafter, he or she will be expected to take accounting responsibility either in a UK subsidiary or overseas. Longer term prospects are excellent.

Candidates must be able to demonstrate maturity and strong communication skills in addition to good academic and professional qualifications.

Please write with full details. These will be forwarded direct to our client. List separately any companies to whom your application should not be sent. Sue Prior ref. B.1977.

HAY-MSL Selection and Advertising Limited,
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CONFIDENTIAL ADVERTISING

Senior Financial Executive

Up to £17,000 p.a.

Bromley, Kent

Tiphook Holdings Limited, a rapidly expanding private group, requires an accountant experienced in computer systems. The integration of accounting and management information systems using IBM System 36 is considered to be the primary function. Subsequently, the provision of financial models and other applications on IBM PCs will be used to take the group into the next generation of automated office procedures. Future career prospects within this ambitious group are excellent and success in this role will lead to a senior line appointment.

Candidates aged 30-35 will be qualified accountants with a good accounting background and a successful record of installing/implementing computerised control and reporting systems. Job costing and factory accounting experience will be particularly advantageous.

Salary is negotiable up to £17,000.

Please send your c.v. without delay to Bernard L. Taylor, MBIM, quoting Ref: 6772 or telephone for a personal history form.

**Mervyn Hughes
Alexandre Tlc
(International) Ltd.**
Management Recruitment Consultants



37 Golden Square,
London W1R 4AN.
01-434 4091

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INTERNATIONAL MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

ORION ROYAL BANK LIMITED, a leading international merchant bank, is seeking to recruit an executive of the highest calibre for its Mergers and Acquisitions Department.

Candidates, who will ideally be in their mid-thirties, should have a good degree and be Chartered Accountants with one or two years' post-qualification experience, preferably in the investigations/mergers area with a major accountancy practice or the corporate finance department of a merchant bank.

The personality and ability to contribute positively to the Department, accept responsibility and develop rapidly are essential.

A competitive salary will be paid together with the usual bank benefits.

Please write in confidence enclosing a full curriculum vitae to:
Derek Blacker, Personnel Director,
ORION ROYAL BANK LIMITED,
1 London Wall, London EC2Y 5JX.

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER - PUBLISHING

The Institute of Physics, through its Publishing Division based in Bristol, is responsible for the publication of some 30 learned journals and about 100 new scientific, technical and medical titles each year. Due to expansion we now require a qualified accountant with first-class commercial experience to take up a new position as Financial Controller reporting directly to the Financial Director. The main responsibility will be the preparation of financial and management budgets and accounts with special emphasis on performance analysis. Wang mini and micro-computers are used extensively throughout the division.

This is an excellent career opportunity in financial management. Salary negotiable; benefits include pension scheme with life assurance, assistance with relocation costs, etc.

Please write, in confidence, with full details of qualifications and career to Bruce Spencer, F.C.A. Financial Director, The Institute of Physics Publishing Division, Techno House, Redcliffe Way, Bristol BS1 6NX.

Accountancy Appointments

Director of Finance and Administration

City

c. £40,000

An international financial services group seeks an outstanding financial executive for the London office of a substantial subsidiary.

Reporting to the chairman, the appointee will be responsible for the direction of financial control, information systems and the administration function, but the key contributions expected are:

- enhancing the intellectual rigour of the commercial judgement exercised in business policy and day-to-day decisions
- tightening financial disciplines and their observance.

We invite applications from graduate chartered accountants, 35-40, who can offer:

- management and leadership record at a senior level

- strong background in high volume transactions environment, and a special ability in risk assessment
- broad experience of EDP control and information systems
- authority, resilience and agreeable personality.

Career prospects are excellent within a world wide group.

Write, in confidence, quoting reference 3220/L, to M.R.P. Blanckenhagen, Executive Selection Division, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., 165 Queen Victoria Street, Blackfriars, London, EC4V 3PD, describing how you match our client's specification.

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c.£20,000+car

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Thornton Baker Associates, part of Grant Thornton International, are rapidly expanding and extending their Management Consultancy Services throughout the UK as a result of growing client demand across the spectrum of consultancy work.

Thornton Baker has some 60 offices throughout the country, and we are now looking for men and women with the right blend of skill and experience to continue the development of our consultancy services.

We seek qualified Chartered Accountants, preferably graduates, aged probably 30-35, with a strong background in the application of financial and management accounting techniques coupled with a sound knowledge of systems/computing/information technology.

We see you as an ambitious and talented Management Consultant with not less than 3 years' professional consultancy experience eager for the variety, challenge, responsibility and professional growth that Thornton Baker Associates can offer.

In addition to the highly competitive salary and car we offer large company benefits, including assistance with relocation wherever necessary. The prospects for promotion are excellent.

If you feel you have the right skills and experience - as well as the pioneering spirit to join us at one of our regional offices please write with full cv to Ian Woods, Regional Director, Thornton Baker Associates Limited, Kennedy Tower, St Chads Queensway, Birmingham B4 6EL. For Manchester appointments only, to Peter Evans, Regional Director, Thornton Baker Associates Limited, Brazennose House, Brazennose Street, Manchester M2 5AX.



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FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

required for rapidly expanding record retail multiple based South Midlands. The successful applicant will be an energetic chartered or certified accountant aged 35-45 years with a sound commercial background including knowledge of computerised systems and with the ability to provide accurate monthly financial information working in conjunction with the Managing Director. 25-30 years experience. Salary £15,000 per annum. Please write in confidence to: c/o MICHAEL & CO, Chartered Accountants, 13 Thayer Street, London W1

DULWICH

Excellent opportunity for qualified accountant with first class private client experience to work in small busy practice in SE21, full or part-time.

Reply with c.v., daytime telephone number, details of two referees and salary requirements to Box 48873, Financial Times, 10 Canvey Street, London EC4R 3ET

ACCOUNTANCY APPOINTMENTS

Appear Every Thursday

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Management Accounting International Banking

London

c£25,000+ car + banking benefits

An exceptional management opportunity has arisen within a major UK clearing bank in line with the continuing development of the management accounting function, including the recent introduction of sophisticated locally based computer systems.

This senior head office role involves participation with line management in the planning and control of the international banking activities and optimisation of profitability through the provision of comprehensive management information.

As head of a sizeable department, including ten qualified accountants, this position will demand close interface with key personnel at all levels.

Aged 28-40 and a graduate, your accountancy qualification must be supported by extensive experience of computer-based management information systems, probably gained within a large international organisation at both head office and operating unit levels. Personal qualities will include initiative, above average communicative skills and self styled man-management ability.

The generous remuneration package offered is commensurate with the importance of this high profile position and includes substantial banking benefits.

Interested candidates should write to Nigel Bates FCA, Executive Division, enclosing a comprehensive c.v., quoting ref. 241, at 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HH.



Michael Page Partnership

International Recruitment Consultants

London Bristol Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow Brussels New York Sydney

HEAD OFFICE ACCOUNTANT

City of London

c. £22,500

Our client, a major United Kingdom public company, wishes to appoint an experienced qualified accountant to join their London based headquarters to assume responsibility for the control of the Head Office Accounts Department, which involves:-

- the preparation of statutory accounts and other financial information for a number of Head Office holding and finance companies.
- the control and development of treasury reporting for Head Office.
- the preparation of management accounts and budgets.
- the development of computerised accounting systems.
- such exercises which are, from time to time, requested by directors, banks and other parties.

The successful candidate will be a mature, qualified accountant, with several years experience in running a well organised computerised accounts department and who has obtained exposure to both management accounting and financial reporting to strict deadlines. A knowledge of consolidations is not required as the position offered is not a group accounting role.

If you would like more information, please send your written CV, in strictest confidence, to Neil Gillespie or Robert N. Collier at our London address, quoting reference no. 5238.

410 Strand, London WC2R 0NS. Tel: 01-436 9501
26 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2FF. Tel: 041-226 3101
113/115 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4JN. Tel: 031-228 7744
Brook House, 77 Fountain Street
Manchester M2 2BX. Tel: 061-239 1533

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Accountants

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c.£25,000 plus banking benefits

We are the leading private sector specialists for loan and equity finance. We aim to create innovative investment schemes to meet the individual requirements of each company approaching us.

We are currently seeking a further Accounting Adviser to join our Industry Department. Members of this team contribute to investment decisions by appraising and reporting to our Investment Executives on the operations of the companies seeking finance.

Working alone, an Accounting Adviser will make a two or three day visit to an applicant company prior to making a well-reasoned written investment recommendation. The decision process requires a blend of decisiveness, imagination and commercial realism. You could become one of our Accounting Advisers if you have:

- Minimum of 10 years post qualification experience as a Chartered Accountant, ideally embracing investigations followed by an industrial career rising to Controller or Director level.
- Facility to combine a succinct business overview with appropriate in-depth analysis.
- Self-discipline to operate to tight schedules, formulate reasoned judgements and write cogent reports.
- Ability to develop good relationships with financial colleagues and with customers' management.

The work entails substantial travel and an executive car is provided. Benefits include concessionary mortgage scheme and non-contributory pension plan.

Please send a concise CV, including salary history, in confidence to: M.C. Wiseman, Investors in Industry plc, Radcliffe House, Blenheim Court, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 2UB.



THE CREATIVE USE OF MONEY

TOUCHE ROSS & CO. MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

If you find our requirements demanding wait until you get the job

The job is that of a management consultant with Touche Ross & Co., one of the world's largest firms of Chartered Accountants. It's a position that offers considerable challenge and responsibility - matched by an equally substantial reward. Few individuals will take it in their stride. But then, to put it bluntly, even fewer get the chance.

Those who do are usually qualified accountants, aged up to about 40, with a good first degree and several years' commercial or industrial experience. They have intelligence and initiative, drive and ambition, and appreciate that management consultancy demands not simply technical expertise, but practical ability in communicating with clients and solving their problems.

If you think you can join our team,

we expect you to be every bit as demanding as the role. You will be based in London and we will pay you up to £26,000 plus a car. We'll give you an exceptional opportunity to increase and broaden your experience, together with the chance to rub shoulders with some of the brightest minds in the business. And if you continue to impress, we're one of the few large firms who'll hold the ladder for you while you climb - and the rungs to a partnership are fewer than you might think.

For the present, however, we'd like to look at your past. So please write to Michael Hurton at the address below, enclosing details of your career to date and your salary record, quoting reference 2262.

Touche Ross & Co.

The Business Partners

Hill House, 1 Little New Street London EC4A 3TR

Telephone: 01-353 8011

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The National Freight Consortium is an exciting and expanding group with transport, travel and property interests in the United Kingdom and overseas.

We are seeking a dynamic, fully qualified accountant to control the financial reporting of our international group from our Bedford offices, and to assist in the evaluation of potential acquisitions worldwide.

The post will be demanding, high profile and will require well-honed technical and management expertise. Good communication skills are of paramount importance as is an outstanding track record to date, featuring acquisition appraisal.

An excellent benefits package is on offer and in view of the nature of the post a company car will be provided. There is also opportunity for the purchase of shares in this employee owned consortium.

Please telephone if you are interested:
Mrs Elizabeth Toogood, Personnel Manager
NFC, Bedford (0234) 67444 Extension 288



HI-TECH Controller

An excellent opportunity for a young, ambitious accountant to make a significant contribution to company performance. As Marketing Controller for this rapidly growing U.S. computer company you will provide a full financial service to operations management. Working alongside business managers key responsibilities will include forecasting, budgeting, business planning and capital expenditure appraisal. Prospects are excellent in an expanding, progressive environment. Candidates, aged c.30, should be qualified accountants with experience of an FMCG environment and the ability to effectively manage change. Ref: JG.

W. LONDON

£19,000 + Car

Group Role

The progressive U.K. subsidiary of a U.S. computer company requires a Group Accountant to take a central, highly visible, development role. Working in a sophisticated computerised environment, you will be controlling all aspects of group accounting together with systems development and group forecasting requirements. An outstanding opportunity for a qualified accountant, 25-35, seeking a career position with challenge and rapid progression. Ref: GR.

C. HERTS

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Financial Director Designate

Cotswolds, to £20,000 + car

This profitable £25m turnover subsidiary of a major British group, headquartered in an attractive area of the country, has an excellent record in the provision of specialist sub-contract services to the building industry. Internal promotion has created a requirement for a Financial Director with the potential for early progression to the Board. Reporting to the Managing Director, the successful candidate will assume full responsibility for the management of the company's financial affairs, and the statutory company secretarial duties. Candidates, probably mid 30s, should be fully-qualified accountants with a proven record of technical expertise and managerial ability. Essential personal qualities are good communication skills, commercial awareness and the ability to contribute imaginatively to the profitable development of the business. Benefits are excellent, and relocation assistance is available.

S.P. Spindler, Ref: 24006/FT. Male or female candidates should telephone in confidence for a Personal History Form 07535 50651, 36 High Street, Eton, WINDSOR, SL4 6BD.

Group Financial Accountant

A Hotel Management Group require an Accountant with experience in Hotel Accounting to take control of its financial operations. The successful applicant will be responsible for the day-to-day running of an accounting staff of approximately six persons including their training and development.

He/she will also be responsible for supervising the production of the management accounts of the hotels and will control their cash flow/budgets. He/she will be responsible for maintaining the accounts of four other limited companies in the group. Knowledge of companies would be an advantage.

The successful applicant will be expected to become involved in the acquisition of further hotels within the group and the financing thereof. A salary of approximately £18,000-£20,000 plus benefits is envisaged.

Please apply, together with a curriculum vitae, to:

D. North F.C.A.

BOWKER, ORFORD & CO.

15-19 Cavendish Place, London W1M 0DD

Accountancy Appointments

Financial and business development director

London, c£40,000, profit share, options



For a highly successful, long established £50m turnover consumer products group, a frequent Queen's Award winner with substantial export markets. The balance sheet is strong and adequate resources are available for business development through acquisitions and organic growth.

Reporting to the Chairman you will be responsible for the entire financial function and for developing and implementing the company's expansion and diversification plans.

Aged from 35 your post-qualification experience should include a period spent in marketing oriented international companies and at least three years' in the F.M.C.G. sector preferably at controller level. On the business development front the requirement is for a good record in identifying and evaluating acquisition opportunities, negotiating and liaising with vendors and professional advisers and in handling the day to day practicalities of absorbing new acquisitions into a group. This is not a large company and interpersonal skills of a high order both in and out of the boardroom will be of the essence.

Terms need not be a limiting factor.

Resumes including a daytime telephone number to John Robins, Executive Selection Division, Ref. RF241.

Coopers & Lybrand associates

Coopers & Lybrand Associates Limited management consultants

Reetway House, 25 Farringdon Street London EC4A 4AQ

Financial Management Young Graduate Accountant

Age 24-28

South Midlands

up to £16,000 + benefits, including use of car

Our client, an international industrial group, is offering an exceptional opportunity to a young accountant aspiring to the higher echelons of business management. Through a unique special entry scheme, the successful candidate will gain exposure over a two year period to testing situations both within the group's headquarters and in the operating companies. In broad terms, this will offer direct experience of finance and treasury matters along with the practical aspects of financial control encountered in manufacturing and service industries.

Ideal candidates will have a good degree followed by a professional accountancy qualification. Considerable weight will attach to initiative, communication skills, good business instinct and a capacity for working under pressure. The company headquarters are in the South Midlands but candidates must be prepared for some travel both in the UK and overseas.

Please apply to Anthony Jones, Career Plan Ltd., Chichester House, Chichester Road, Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1EG, tel: 01-242 5775.

Career plan
LIMITED
Personnel Consultants

Financial Controller

Fast Growth Opportunity

Southern England

c. £20,000 + Car

Formed only 18 months ago this private Nursing Home group has already successfully opened seven Homes in Southern England to cater for the needs of the elderly and handicapped.

Its policy is to refurbish and equip existing Homes to provide the highest standards of nursing care and comfort and its plan is to open Homes throughout the South and West of England to meet the need for these facilities. Each Home is run by a fully qualified matron with a high level of autonomy but subject to strict medical supervision.

The group now requires an experienced Financial Controller to be responsible for all financial and general administration aspects of the business and to play a key role in its development.

The position calls for a Qualified Accountant with sound business acumen. Critical requirements include experience of introducing and maintaining sound accounting, administration and management information systems, cash management and short-term investment, and financial investigations work.

The person appointed will operate from home and a reasonably central location would be ideal for regular visits to the Homes.

The attractive remuneration package includes profit share scheme, car and pension arrangements.

Please send concise details including salary and day-time telephone number quoting ref. E2006 to W.S. Gifford, Executive Selection Division, Thornton Baker Associates Limited, Fairfax House, Fulwood Place, London WC1V 6DW.

Thornton Baker Associates Limited, Fairfax House, Fulwood Place, London WC1V 6DW.

SAINSBURY'S Computer Audit Manager

to £20,000 + car + outstanding package

Sainsbury's is one of Britain's most progressive and successful retail organisations whose earnings per share have shown compound real growth of 13% per annum over the last ten years. The company is at the forefront of retail systems development.

Supported by a small team of computer auditors this high profile position offers considerable scope for development of computer audit within the company.

In addition to a degree, the successful candidate must have either an accountancy qualification or impeccable credentials in computer

auditing. An in depth understanding of data base technology, well developed interpersonal skills and the ability to substantiate the audit viewpoint both clearly and concisely are essential.

The benefits include a car profit sharing and participation in very attractive share-option schemes.

Candidates should write to Philip Cartwright ACMA, Executive Division, enclosing a comprehensive curriculum vitae, quoting reference 238, at Michael Page Partnership, 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HY.



Michael Page Partnership

International Recruitment Consultants

London Bristol Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow Brussels New York Sydney

Young ACA Merchant Banking

City of London

c £16,000

+ Usual Banking Benefits

Our client, a prestigious British Merchant Bank, has recently made major strategic investments to ensure its position as a leading player in the deregulated securities industry.

It is seeking to strengthen its financial control function in order to meet the changing and increasingly sophisticated requirements in the areas of management information systems and financial reporting.

The successful candidate will

probably be recently qualified with relevant accounting experience together with an understanding of modern treasury accounting products and services.

Excellent personal appearance and communication skills complemented by dynamism and self-motivation will ensure success within this exciting and rapidly changing environment.

To apply, please telephone or write to Susan Tucker quoting Ref: ST 9177.

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ACCOUNTANCY APPOINTMENTS

APPEAR EVERY

THURSDAY

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FINANCIAL CONTROLLER (Director Potential)

LEISURE INDUSTRY

to £22,000 + car

The company operates a highly successful chain of pubs, restaurants and small hotels in Greater London and the Home Counties. Its growth has come from entrepreneurial business flair and a thoroughly professional management style. Turnover is currently around £4m. and there are significant plans for further growth, through strategic acquisition of prime sites, possibly culminating in an USM Listing in the medium term.

This expansion has created a demand for a commercially minded finance executive to work closely with the Chairman towards achieving the company's business objectives. As part of the management team, you will initially contribute by assessing current and projected commercial and financial assumptions and setting key target dates. Beyond this, you will be responsible for tight cost control, innovative balance sheet management and for leading a small accounts team.

Candidates must be qualified accountants, with evidence of a successful track record in a competitive and, preferably multi-location, service environment. You should be able to work effectively with people at all levels and of different disciplines. An appetite for hard work, a flexible approach and a positive, optimistic, yet informal, personality are all essential to success. Exposure to the City would be an advantage. Preferred age: 30s. To apply, please write enclosing personal, career and salary information to:

Jan Tomlinson, Executive Selection Division, Hacker Young Management Consultants, St. Alphage House, 2 Fore Street, London, EC2Y 5DH.

Hacker Young
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Director of Finance Birmingham

c£25,000 + car

Our client is a rapidly growing UK marketing subsidiary of a major international, information technology products group with a turnover approaching £46m. Reporting to the UK Managing Director, the Director of Finance will be completely responsible for managing and developing all the finance and data processing activities of the multi site operation, supported by approximately 25 staff. As a member of the executive management group, he/she will be expected to contribute significantly to the company's overall development and profitability - this will include advising on pricing, financial services for customers and funding requirements.

The successful applicant will be a qualified accountant in the 33 to 45 age range with considerable financial management experience, which should have included responsibility for information systems, credit management, financial leasing/rental, financial policy, accounting policies and internal controls. Ideally, this experience will have been gained in a fast moving marketing/distribution environment. Considerable emphasis will be placed on personal qualities - a mature and strong manager of people with a persuasive nature, able to influence and manage change in a rapidly expanding company. This is a challenging position, providing an excellent career opportunity for an ambitious and talented financial manager. The attractive, negotiable remuneration package includes relocation assistance and reflects the importance the company places on this appointment.

Suitably experienced candidates should write, in confidence, enclosing full career and salary details to Phil Gardner, Executive Selection Division, Price Waterhouse, PO Box 120, Livery House, 189 Edmund Street, Birmingham B3 2TB (telephone 021-236 5011). Please quote reference MCS/8533.

Price Waterhouse
Business Needs Experts

CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE

Internal Audit

INTERNATIONAL BANKING

We are a leading international bank with an established presence in Europe.

Due to the expansion of our European operations we are now seeking to recruit 2 qualified individuals to join our internal audit function.

The responsibilities will embrace all units of the Bank in the European region including Branch operations, Foreign Exchange, Money Markets, Financial Futures, Eurobonds and Merchant Banking.

The more senior position will suit a qualified ACA ideally aged 27-30 with experience of international bank audits. A working knowledge of EDP systems involving IBM 34/36 hardware is desirable but not essential.

The second position will suit a newly qualified ACA aged 23-26 with high potential wishing to take advantage of the exposure the position will provide to international banking operations.

We offer an attractive benefits package and a remuneration level commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the successful applicant.

Please apply in writing, with a detailed C.V. indicating annual remuneration level to:

Mark Whitbread, Assistant Personnel Manager
CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE
55 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 3NN

Financial Controller Off-licence operations

up to £23,000 + car

based Liverpool

The recent amalgamation of the off-licence business of Thresher and Ashe and Nephew as a new division of Whitbread & Co has created an outstanding opportunity for a commercially orientated Accountant to become Financial Controller of the Company's Northern Division based at Huyton, Liverpool.

Reporting to the Financial Director, the man or woman appointed will be responsible for the overall control of all administrative and accounting functions for some 400 of the Company's off-licences and will play a major role in establishing Huyton as a major financial and branch accounting centre for Whitbread's off-licence operations.

This challenging role will place particular emphasis on ensuring that standards of financial management are both highly professional and cost effective. It is anticipated that the successful applicant will eventually assume responsibility for management of the Huyton site.

This position calls for a fully qualified Accountant, CA or ICMA, ideally of graduate calibre with a wide range of financial accounting experience preferably gained in both head office and operating company environments. Also important are an outgoing personality, well developed communication and man-management skills, a high level of self motivation and considerable personal and professional authority. Preferred age is 28-40.

This key management appointment carries a salary of up to £23,000 pa plus a company car and an attractive range of benefits including contributory pension scheme, BUPA and 25 days' holiday.

Write with full cv to Rod Tompsett, Finance Director, Thresher and Co, Sefton House, 42 Church Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8JH.



WHITBREAD

Accountancy Appointments

Chief Auditor

London W1.

c.£18,000.

Our clients are a substantial and well established London based company providing a service in the procurement of supplies and staff required by a number of oil exploration and development companies operating onshore and offshore in Libya. They now seek to recruit an experienced Chartered Accountant to set up and run an internal audit function with responsibility to the Chief Executive. The main areas to be covered include systems improvement, reviews of performance in accordance with agreed contract terms, the evaluation of the reliability and accuracy of accounting records and the conduct of special investigations as and when required.

Candidates should be Chartered Accountants aged 35 to 45 with substantial audit and accounting experience in the profession and in commerce, preferably in the oil industry. They must be mature, experienced, independent and have complete integrity. Please write in confidence with full career details, and quoting reference J1759 to J. W. Hills, Executive Selection Division, Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co., 165 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 3PD.

PEAT MARWICK

Financial Controller

Hampshire

£17,000+car

Our client, is an autonomous subsidiary of a "Blue Chip" plc, specialising in the design and manufacture of sophisticated healthcare equipment, which is successful on a worldwide basis. Internal promotion has created the need for a qualified accountant to take responsibility for the finance function, with specific emphasis on financial and management accounting, forecasting and business and operational planning.

Man management experience and some exposure to manufacturing are considered pre-requisites. The preferred age is 28-34. Self motivation, commercial awareness and the drive to succeed should be among your personal qualities. Interested applicants should contact Tony Martin on 01-242 0965 or write to him, enclosing a comprehensive cv, quoting ref: L2034, at 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HY.

Michael Page Partnership
International Recruitment Consultants
London Bristol Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow
Brussels New York Sydney

Financial Controller

Giltspur Engineering Design, a subsidiary of Unigate PLC, is seeking to appoint a Financial Controller who after a period of satisfactory performance will be promoted to Financial Director. Giltspur Engineering Design's team of more than 400 chartered engineers and specialists provide a total engineering design service. Projects range from small contracts to multi-million pound undertakings and have been completed for a wide range of industrial customers in the UK and overseas.

Reporting to the Managing Director, the Financial Controller will be responsible for the Finance Department and the Administration Department (a total of 16 people in four UK locations) and for the implementation of tight financial controls. Sound commercial awareness together with knowledge of computerised accounting systems is essential.

The successful applicant will be between 30 and 45, a graduate (ideally with an engineering degree) and a qualified accountant. Experience in a similar environment, whilst desirable, is not essential.

The salary will be negotiable depending upon experience and the usual company benefits, including a car, will apply.

Please write with full curriculum vitae to:

Alex McLaren, Managing Director,
Ref: GED/FC,
GILTSPUR ENGINEERING DESIGN LIMITED,
Maxwell Road, Borehamwood, Herts. WD6 1JH.

Finance Director

Lincolnshire

c £33,000 + bonus + car

Our client is a £350m+ turnover trading company of a substantial division within a British plc group, specialising in the manufacturing and marketing of fast moving consumer goods.

Due to internal promotion into general management, they seek a Finance Director to be involved in the future expansion of the trading company in addition to the development of computerised management reporting systems following a recent restructuring of the company.

You will be a graduate calibre qualified accountant, aged 35-45, ideally with

an MBA and considerable experience in a large company environment. Your managerial background should have given you a broad commercial awareness and extensive knowledge of data processing and management information systems.

An excellent remuneration package is offered, including a company performance related bonus scheme and relocation expenses where appropriate.

Candidates should write to Nigel Hopkins FCA, Executive Division, enclosing a cv, quoting ref 240, at 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HY.

Michael Page Partnership
International Recruitment Consultants
London Bristol Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow Brussels New York Sydney

Recently Qualified ACA

finance/admin co-ordination in investment management

London

£14-16,500+ subsidised mortgage etc

Qualified in the last two years with one of the major professional firms and now wanting to demonstrate your potential and gain extensive commercial experience in a stimulating environment without being tied to the routines of a financial or management accounting role?

Our client, the investment management arm of one of the largest British financial groups is a dominant force in the investment world. Its requirement is exciting and challenging - to assist with the financial administration of a wide range of investment subsidiaries including property and offshore funds.

This will involve extensive liaison with

senior professional advisors; attending board meetings; providing financial information and co-ordinating activities of fund management companies.

Self motivation, maturity and strong communication skills are prerequisites, as is the ability to grasp quickly associated tax and legal requirements and implications. Success in this position will ensure that there is no shortage of future career options.

Seldom does such an opportunity arise, so contact:

David Tod BSc FCA on 01-405 3499
quoting ref: D/T2DF

Lloyd Management

125 High Holborn London WC1V 6QA Selection Consultants 01-405 3499

One of the most challenging Accountancy Positions South Wales has to offer!

Senior Financial Accountant

£17,000 plus

This is an exceptional opportunity for an experienced, qualified Accountant with the authority, confidence and commercial flair needed to provide a comprehensive financial accounting service to one of the largest industrial complexes in South Wales.

With the support of a large professional and clerical team, you will be responsible for the effective control of a substantial £multi-million turnover and will make a significant contribution to the further commercial development of this operation.

Although qualifications (ideally degree plus ACA, ACCA or ACMA) are essential, the main requirement is your proven ability to handle a senior position within a large manufacturing environment plus genuine man-management skills.

A salary in excess of £17,000 is negotiable and the comprehensive benefits include relocation assistance to a very pleasant South Wales location.

Write enclosing full CV to Bob Edwards at PER, Grove House, Grove Place, Swansea SA1 5DH or telephone him for an application form on (0792) 43481.

PER Professional & Executive Recruitment

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

MID HAMPSHIRE

c £19,000 + BONUS + CAR

Our client is a market leader in the manufacture and distribution of well-known consumer products, with brand names respected throughout the UK and overseas. With a planned turnover of £16m they are a profitable independent subsidiary of a major plc with an impressive growth record. As such they are now in the position to capitalise on their market position.

The company will soon have a vacancy for the position of Financial Director and Company Secretary. The appointment carries responsibility for some fifty staff in the accounting, data processing and sales administration departments.

The post requires the personal qualities necessary at board level, commercial awareness and technical competence in both financial management and computer systems.

The person appointed will be qualified and be ideally in their mid-thirties with a good degree and several years' experience at a senior level in a well-run distribution and manufacturing organisation - preferably consumer products.

In addition to working in a pleasant part of the country, the benefits, both personal and material, makes this an attractive opportunity. A remuneration package is offered comprising a salary of c. £19,000, a substantial profit-related bonus scheme, non-contributory pension scheme, car, the normal insurance benefits and relocation assistance. As part of a large financially-orientated group longer-term career prospects are good.

In the first instance write, enclosing your full curriculum vitae, to:
Box A8981, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street
London EC4P 4BY

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

to £20,000 p.a.

Our client is a leading health-care organisation based in London with an international reputation for achieving the highest standards of patient-care.

The Chief Accountant will be responsible for:

- the management of a large team covering General Ledger, Payroll, Purchase Ledger, Sales Ledger and Credit Control;
- the preparation of monthly management accounts, all accounting records and year-end published accounts;
- the development and review of accounting procedures to meet the needs of a rapidly expanding organisation in harmony with the development of computer applications using Data General equipment;
- preparation of annual Cash Flow forecasts; monitoring and managing the actual Cash Flow situation.

The person we seek is likely to be a Chartered or Certified Accountant in their 30s with experience in commercial organisations, some of which should have been in a company providing services. Evidence of experience in developing and motivating staff to create a strong accounting team will be essential. Candidates must demonstrate the capacity to deal with both procedural and detail problems, and to operate in liaison with colleagues in other departments.

Salary negotiable up to £20,000 supported by a good benefits package. Applicants should write providing details of qualifications, experience and current circumstances to:

R. T. Scott, Managing Consultant,
Taylor Scott Associates Limited,
Southern House, 4 A Peterborough Road,
Harrow, HA1 2BQ. Tel: 01-423 4193.

Personnel Management & Recruitment Consultants

STa

Management Accountant

London

c£20,000

Our client, the leasing subsidiary of a major clearing bank, seeks to appoint a qualified accountant to assume responsibility for the management accounting section of the business.

Reporting to the Chief Accountant, you would assist with budgets, financial and tax planning, forecasting, modelling and treasury. In addition you would have responsibility for a small team.

To join this prosperous and prestigious company, we would prefer you to be a Chartered Accountant, educated to degree level, with at least five years management accounting experience. Ideally you will have been articled to a top firm and have gained line experience in a large organisation. It is envisaged that you will be around 30 years of age. Experience of computerised accounting and management information systems is essential. Flexibility to assist with other accounting functions and the ability to integrate into a small friendly team is of paramount importance. We will also be looking for evidence of well developed interpersonal skills.

Prospects are good, the remuneration package is highly rewarding with a salary around the indicator shown, including bonus and profit share. Other benefits are equally attractive as for one of the Big 4.

If you feel that you can contribute to this growing concern we would like to hear from you.

Candidates, male or female, should apply in confidence enclosing a full CV, and quoting reference MCS/5035, to Barrie A. Whitaker, Executive Selection Division, Price Waterhouse, Southwark Towers, 32 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9SY.

PW Business Needs Experts

SYSTEM AUDITOR CONTROLLER

£18,000 + car

Major Communications Group in W1 seek someone under 35 with ambition to head small department, reporting direct to the Group Controller. Work involves reviewing group systems and programmes and requires an in-depth knowledge of computerised systems. Ref AT/22

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

£16,500 + car

Small West London tour operator. Reporting direct to the Managing Director of this dynamic company. Primary responsibilities will be budget control and management accounting. Age around 30. Ref AT/42

For further details, phone or write, quoting reference, to:

THE PERSONAL SERVICE
ACCOUNTANCY ASSOCIATES LIMITED
Incorporating Accountancy Recruitment

6 VIGOR STREET LONDON W1K 1AH TELEPHONE 01-431 3347 TELEX 27780

CORPORATE TREASURER

BROMLEY

c £17,000 + car

An International Travel Group requires a Corporate Treasurer to be based at offices in Bromley. This is a new position and has arisen through the continued international expansion of the Group which specialises in providing holidays for young people.

Reporting to the Finance Director you will have full responsibility for the treasury function: particularly management of currency exposures, cash management and control of banking relationships. Aged under 30 you will have a relevant degree and must possess 2 years' treasury experience in the corporate area. An accounting/ systems background is desirable.

In addition to the attractive salary and Company car, benefits include BUPA membership and contributory pension scheme.

Please write in confidence giving full career details to:
Box A8978, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

De Beers

Julian Ogilvie Thompson's Statement for 1984

At the end of 1984 Mr. H. F. Oppenheimer retired after 27 years as Chairman of De Beers, but will stay on the Board, and was succeeded by Julian Ogilvie Thompson. Nicholas Oppenheimer was appointed Deputy Chairman.



At the end of 1984, a few days after the 50th anniversary of his appointment as a director, Mr Harry Oppenheimer retired as Chairman of De Beers; he had held that office for 27 years. His father, Sir Ernest, whom he succeeded, had been a director for 31 years, all but three as Chairman. That constitutes a remarkable record of service from father and son to any company.

Essentially, the structure that Sir Ernest established half a century ago, to bring under unified control the producing and selling functions for rough diamonds, has remained unaltered to this day. Harry Oppenheimer adapted it as necessary to the demands of a changing world, and in doing so he further strengthened the Company's pivotal position as leader of the diamond business. The years of his chairmanship saw a prodigious growth in the activities of the Company, particularly in the size and diversity of the non-diamond assets which have played such an important part in enabling De Beers to provide the finance for bringing the industry through what Mr Oppenheimer has described as its worst depression in 50 years.

I know shareholders will want to join me in expressing our appreciation of Mr Oppenheimer's immense contribution to our affairs, and our pleasure that he has agreed to remain on the board.

Record diamond jewellery sales

Although retail sales of diamond jewellery set a new record in 1984, difficulties in the market for rough diamonds persisted. Measured in US Dollars, the currency in which rough diamonds are priced, sales by the CSO were only one per cent higher than in 1983, at US \$1,613 million.

The year started encouragingly, with sales in the first half seven per cent up on the corresponding period of the previous year; sales in the second half fell back sharply, however, as trading conditions in the cutting centres became more difficult. For this there were three main reasons. First, the continued and substantial appreciation of the US Dollar against other currencies effectively increased diamond prices in the rest of the world. Secondly, in the light of the losses sustained in financing the diamond trade, the banks continued to rationalise their lending activities, thus accentuating the financial pressure on some manufacturers and dealers. Thirdly, at a critical juncture imports of polished diamonds into Antwerp temporarily increased, which because of the timing and price levels involved had disruptive effects in all the cutting centres.

CSO continued stabilisation

Accordingly the CSO continued its stabilisation policy by withholding from the market the larger sizes and better qualities of diamonds. Nevertheless, there was only a relatively small real increase of R191 million in Group stocks over the year.

In all the circumstances, I believe that De Beers' results last year were as satisfactory as could be expected. Net attributable profits, excluding our share of retained profits and extraordinary profits of associated companies, rose by eight per cent to R332.5 million, or 92.4 cents a share. Including our share of retained profits of associated companies, earnings increased by 28 per cent to R677.7 million or 188.4 cents a share. Our share of associated companies' extraordinary profits was R56.2 million, compared with R5.7 million in 1983. The dividend was maintained at 40 cents a share, absorbing R143.9 million.

Net current assets improved by R185 million to R282 million and the increase in long- and medium-term liabilities was R465 million, leaving a net apparent increase in funding of R280 million. However, this figure was less than the increase of R349 million which would have resulted from the application of the change in the Rand/Dollar exchange rate to such liabilities and assets brought forward from the previous year. Borrowings remain well within the total facilities available to our Group.

of which, except for a small dip in 1982, retail diamond jewellery sales set a new world record — stocks in the cutting centres have fallen by nearly US \$5 billion i.e. by five times as much as the rise in our own stocks. The low level of cutting centre stocks now prevailing is evidenced by the much more reasonable levels of bank finance outstanding. Stocks in the hands of jewellery manufacturers and retailers have likewise fallen significantly. Hence if the world economy continues to grow — and one hopes it may soon do so at a more balanced rate

Demand for rough diamonds is broadening—retail diamond jewellery sales set a new record

Investments outside the diamond industry appreciated by R409 million to R3,687 million (1,024 cents per share) over the year, and yielded income of R183 million, compared with R162 million the previous year.

overall — the stage is well set for sales of rough diamonds to resume their rising trend.

At the first three sights in 1985, during which the CSO maintained its policy of selective allocation, there was a welcome indication of interest in a wider range of diamonds, and sales of the larger sizes increased.

Total sales were affected by the decision of the Indian trade not to import rough diamonds over a period that included the February sight, as a result of certain fiscal problems between the trade and the authorities in Bombay. It remains to be seen whether the sales lost by the CSO as a result of this action will be recouped during the remainder of the year.

Retail sales of diamond jewellery in the burgeoning United States economy increased in value by no less than 19 per cent in 1984. Outside the United States there was on average a small increase in retail sales in local currencies, largely no doubt as a result of the slow rate of economic growth in the other developed countries and the effective increase in diamond prices to which I have referred. Overall more consumers acquired diamond jewellery than ever before and the increase in retail sales world-wide came to approximately six per cent in Dollars. It follows that sales of diamonds in jewellery once again substantially exceeded the corresponding value of rough diamonds sold to the cutting centres — as a consequence of the CSO's policy of withholding qualities not in demand — and brought about a further significant decline in the quantity of diamonds in the pipeline between the CSO and the ultimate consumer.

The large rise in our stocks in recent years, from US \$936 million in 1980 to US \$1,950 million in 1984 (converted at the rate of exchange at the end of each year) is of course the obverse of the reduction in the pipeline stock that our policies have brought about. We estimate that during those five years — in each

The industrial side of our business had another good year. There was a pleasing improvement in sales of natural grit, but sales of drilling stones continued to be affected by the depression in minerals exploration. Sales of synthetic grit and polycrystalline diamond products, which had passed the US \$100 million mark the previous year, rose by as much as 15 per cent, and there was further growth in the profitability of the Group's three diamond synthesis factories in South Africa, Ireland and Sweden, facilitated by new techniques developed at the Diamond Research Laboratory. We estimate that the market for synthetic and natural grit and drilling stones in the non-Communist world now absorbs about 150 million carats a year. The improvement in demand for industrial diamonds, other than drilling stones as yet, is particularly encouraging in view of the fact

that the Argyle mine in Australia, which will be a big producer of industrial and drilling qualities, is due to come into full production at the end of this year. Plans for the marketing of the Argyle production are being developed and we have intensified our research into new uses of natural diamond grit.

Production from the De Beers mines and Debswana, which is owned in equal partnership with the Government of Botswana, rose by 1,987,000 carats to 23,337,000 carats in 1984. Debswana's production increased by 2,182,000 carats to 12,914,000 carats, owing principally to the contribution of the remarkable Jwaneng mine.

Group expenditure on prospecting and research was appreciably higher at R88 million, largely because of the depreciation of the Rand. Several kimberlite pipes were discovered but none was of economic significance. Work continues on the Venetia pipes in the northern Transvaal, in the hope that in time the relationship between prices and costs will improve sufficiently to make this a profitable mine.

Unified wage structure

It is now nearly six years since the Group achieved a unified wage structure on its mines in South Africa and SWA/Namibia, and our extensive training and development programmes for employees at all levels has enabled us to make further progress in implementing our policy of merit-based manning. We welcome the recruitment of unskilled and semi-skilled employees in our Namaqualand division by the National Union of Mineworkers whose negotiations with mine management for a recognition agreement are well advanced. This will broaden employee participation in the negotiation of wages and conditions of service, which is in line with our policy of favouring responsible union representation on our mines.

The Urban Foundation

We have maintained our contributions to the Chairman's Fund, which devotes a large part of its activities to improving the quality and extent of technical education; and to the Urban Foundation, which has facilitated a number of notable achievements in the socio-economic development of South Africa during the past year. We believe that through these institutions, and others, the Group continues to play its part in the creation of a fairer and more just society in South Africa.

At the last annual general meeting Mr Oppenheimer referred with deep regret to the death in April 1984 of Dr Louis Murray, in a flying accident. Dr Murray had been a director since 1975. For nearly 20 years he had been responsible for our world-wide exploration activities, and it was under his leadership that the major discoveries in Botswana were made. We miss him deeply as a valued colleague and a close friend. In November, Mr Alex Barbour, a director of the Diamond Trading Company, was appointed to our board.

The full Chairman's Statement is contained in the Annual Report of the Company for the year ended 31st December 1984 which was posted to registered Shareholders on 24th April 1985.

De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

Head Office
36 Stockdale Street, Kimberley, South Africa.
London Office
40 Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1AJ.

De Beers

The name that stands for diamonds

INTERNATIONAL BANKING

William Hall finds the UK clearing bank has a long way to go in North America

Barclays must win its spurs in the U.S.



Mr. Brian Pearce, Barclays Bank's chief executive in North America. "I was this first general manager to come and live out here."

BARCLAYS BANK has long been regarded as one of the world's better managed banks, so when its fast growing U.S. business announced a surprise \$35m (1942m) operating loss, a couple of years ago, as a result of some ill-timed energy loans, eyebrows were raised in rival international banks.

Back at Barclays' Lombard Street headquarters, senior executives played down the public importance of the losses which they said were due to a few customers feeling the effects of the downturn in the U.S. economy. Rival bankers were less charitable. Some noted that if Barclays' U.S. operations had been run as an independent American bank, Barclays U.S. would not have escaped so lightly. Look what happened at Continental Illinois, Seafirst and some of the Texas banks, they argued.

Barclays' relative exposure to the U.S. energy business was less than many U.S. banks, and being the subsidiary of one of the most profitable banks in the world, meant that there was no problem about who was going to pick up the tab. Nevertheless, the episode was an embarrassment for Barclays, and foreign banks in general, that the U.S. banking market can be extremely fickle.

Mr. Brian Pearce was brought in from the UK in early 1983 to take over from Mr. Richard Carden, 47, who had headed Barclays' activities in North America for the previous five years. It was clear that Barclays intended to take a much tighter grip on its fast growing U.S. operations.

The 52-year-old Pearce, who had previously headed Barclays' important UK retail banking operations, was more senior than Carden and given considerably more power. Until his arrival, the ultimate responsibility for Barclays' North American operations had re-

sided with a general manager in London. "I was the first general manager to come and live out here," says Pearce.

He admits that Barclays burnt its fingers on U.S. energy lending, but he also says it is important not to exaggerate the troubles he inherited. There were a handful of events which combined to push the group's U.S. operations into the red in 1983.

The most pressing problem was the group's rapid expansion into U.S. energy lending, which

arrived in early 1983.

The other immediate problem Barclays faced in North America was a cost structure that had got out of line with the underlying growth of its business.

The group's ambitious U.S. growth plans had led it to hire more staff than it needed. Barclays' immediate response was to lay off around 150 staff, and another 100 jobs out of the group's more than 8,000 abroad workforce also went.

"We are not very proud about that, but we had to do it," says Pearce, who like most UK clearing

bankers is unused to sacking

people. The final factor depressing the group's profitability lay with Barclays' American Corporation (BAC), the North

Carolina finance company which operates roughly 400 offices. Barclays has 500 U.S. offices. Barclays was in the process of moving BAC slightly higher up the market, and this depressed its profitability.

Barclays has, in addition to other moves, worked hard to pull the disparate parts of its

North American financial empire together. Barclays has a sizeable retail banking operation in California and New York, as well as the consumer finance operation based in North Carolina and a commercial finance operation headquartered in Hartford, Connecticut.

On top of this, Barclays Bank International—as it was called till it was merged into Barclays Bank—operates 16 wholesale banking offices across the continent. All told, Barclays operates over 500 offices throughout the U.S. and when Pearce arrived the various entities were tending to pull in opposite directions and not to talk to each other.

Part of the problem is that U.S. banking regulations force Barclays to maintain separate staffs and balance sheets for its various operations. However, Pearce is pulling the pieces together, and has made sure that each part of the North American group knows what the other parts are doing.

Pearce says: "If somebody said to me tomorrow that the laws have changed in America and you can do anything you like in the U.S., we would end up with one bank and one finance company. Even then there would be a little blurring at the edges."

Barclays' latest figures show that its U.S. business is beginning to respond to changes made. The group's U.S. operating profits more than tripled in 1984, to \$60m.

The group's U.S. balance sheet has begun to grow again, after the traumatic events of 1982-83. It has recently opened new offices in Philadelphia and New Jersey, and has its eye on a few more cities, such as Denver, Colorado. Barclays American Corporation has joined the growing queue of banks seeking permission to open branches in various states across the U.S., and re-

cently announced an exclusive retail financing programme for the nationwide dealer network of White Consolidated America's third biggest appliance manufacturer.

In New York, the bank's new 38-storey headquarters building at 75 Wall Street is nearing completion, a symbol of the group's renewed expansion plans in the U.S. But Brian Pearce admits that the easy part of Barclays' turnaround in the U.S. has been completed. The next stage could prove far more difficult.

Even after the sharp jump in its U.S. profits last year, Barclays' U.S. operations are still far less profitable than they should be.

Barclays is looking for a 20 per cent return on its capital in the U.S., and while it will not reveal what sorts of returns it is currently making, it admits that they are short of its target.

At the moment, the bank probably has the most extensive foreign-owned banking operation in the U.S., doing everything from small-scale consumer lending from backstreet offices to competing with the major corporate lenders for the business of the U.S. multinational.

"At a time when it is being suggested that you need a niche philosophy in the U.S. to survive, we reckon we have, but we happen to offer the whole range of banking services," says Pearce. But he warns that the group might decide to withdraw from certain activities.

In common with the foreign banks which have flocked to the U.S. over the last few years, Barclays has been shocked to find that there is no longer much money to be made in the traditional on-balance sheet lending to the major U.S. household names. We recognise that the possibility of making a living by lending

money to these companies has gone," says Pearce.

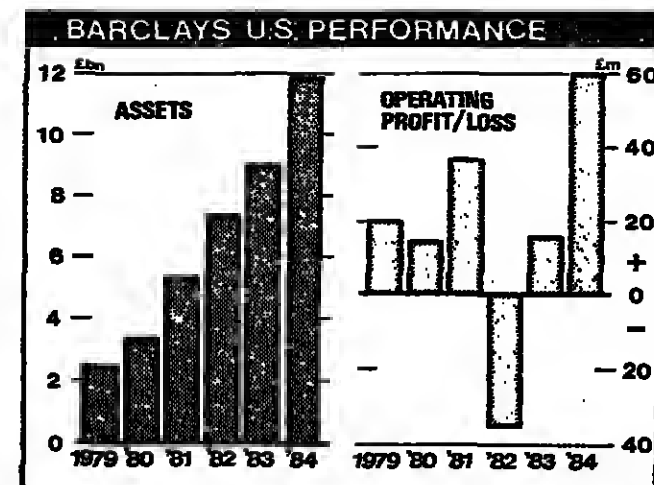
The commercial paper market has taken much of the business which used to be done by the banks.

Barclays has advantage in being able to offer big corporate customers the use of its extensive overseas branch network, and its traditional skills in financial and international trade are also bringing in new customers. But Pearce is under no illusions about the task he faces in building a customers base among U.S. multinationals.

At the other extreme, Barclays is also having to work hard to improve the returns on its retail banking operations in New York and California.

In coming with the other UK clearing banks, Barclays has paid dearly to get into the U.S. banking market. Its investment to date probably totals over \$1bn, and while its recent problems do not match those which confronted Midland Bank when its investment in Crocker National turned sour, it still has a long way to go.

If Barclays is to establish itself as a premier international bank which can compete on a par with the likes of Citibank and Morgan Guaranty, it has to win its spurs in the domestic U.S. banking market, where the gentlemanly rules of the British clearing banks do not apply.



had produced some very big bad loans. Barclays had made the mistake of going down market into the production and drilling areas at a time when oil prices were soaring.

"We lost a lot of money and it took a while just to get over the shock of that," says Pearce.

"The first thing we did was to make sure that we had the hatches battened down on our lending," he adds, noting that Barclays had already abandoned its aggressive U.S. energy lending strategy by the time he

had produced some very big bad loans.

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NOTICE OF REDEMPTION TO THE HOLDERS OF U.S. \$75,000,000

GOODYEAR OVERSEAS FINANCE N.V.

12 1/2% Guaranteed Notes Due 1987

Unconditionally guaranteed as to payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest by

THE GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Condition 5 of the above mentioned Notes (the "Notes") and the provisions of the Fiscal Agency Agreement dated 3rd June, 1980 made between Goodyear Overseas Finance N.V. (the "Company"), The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A. as fiscal agent and the paying agents named therein, the Company has elected to redeem all of the outstanding Notes on 1st June, 1985 (the "redemption date") at the redemption price of 100 1/2% of their principal amount.

On and after the redemption date said redemption price will become and be due and payable upon each Note in United States Dollars, upon presentation and surrender of the relative Note together with all Coupons pertaining thereto maturing after the redemption date, failing which the amount of each missing unexpired Coupon will be deducted from the sum due for payment. Each amount of principal so deducted will be payable upon presentation of the relevant missing Coupon within a period of six years from the date on which such missing Coupon would have become due.

Interest on the Notes will cease to accrue on the redemption date.

All unpaid interest represented by Coupons which mature on or prior to the redemption date shall continue to be payable to the bearers of such Coupons (subject to the Conditions of the Notes) against surrender of such Coupons in accordance with the Conditions of the Notes.

Payment will be made at any of the following paying agencies:

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.,
Woolgate House,
Coleman Street,
London EC2P 2HD.

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.
Chase Manhattan Bank
Corporal Trust Office,
One New York Plaza,
New York, N.Y. 10081.

Banque de Commerce S.A.,
Avenue des Arts 51-52,
B-1040 Brussels,
Belgium.

Commerzbank A.G.,
32-38 Naue Mainzer Strasse,
600 Frankfurt 1,
Germany.

Credit Lyonnais
19 Boulevard
des Capucines,
75002 Paris, France.

Chase Manhattan Bank
(Switzerland),
Genarstrasse 24,
2000 Zurich, Switzerland.

GOODYEAR OVERSEAS FINANCE N.V.
By: The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.
Fiscal Agent.

Dated 25 April, 1985.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION To the Holders of

ENTE NAZIONALE IDROCARBURI E.N.I.

(National Hydrocarbons Authority)

6 1/2% Sinking Fund Debentures due June 1, 1987

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Sinking Fund for the Debentures of the above-described issue, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as Fiscal Agent, has selected by lot for redemption on June 1, 1985 at the principal amount thereof \$532,000 principal amount of said Debentures, as follows:

Outstanding Debentures of U.S. \$1,000 Each of Prefix "M" Bearing Serial Numbers Ending in the Following Two Digits:

29 31 52 62 75

Also Debentures of U.S. \$1,000 Each of Prefix "M" Bearing the Following Serial Numbers:

8987 9087 9187 9487 9687 9787

On June 1, 1985, there will become and be due and payable upon each Debenture the principal amount thereof, in such coin or currency of the United States of America as on said date is legal tender for the payment thereof of public and private debt, at the option of the holder, either (a) at the corporate trust office of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 13th Floor, 30 West Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10015, or (b) subject to any laws and regulations applicable thereto with respect to the payment, currency of payment or otherwise in the country of any of the following offices, at the principal office of Banca Nazionale del Lavoro in Rome or the principal office of Banca Commerciale Italiana in Milan or the main offices of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in London, Brussels, Paris or Frankfurt or the main office of Algemeene Bank Nederland N.V. in Amsterdam or the main office of Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourg in Luxembourg-Ville.

Debentures surrendered for redemption should have attached all unexpired coupons appertaining thereto. Coupons due June 1, 1985, should be detached and collected in the usual manner. From and after June 1, 1985, interest shall cease to accrue on the Debentures herein designated for redemption.

ENTE NAZIONALE IDROCARBURI
By: MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY
OF NEW YORK, Fiscal Agent

April 25, 1985

Under the Interest and Dividend Tax Compliance Act of 1983, we may be required to withhold 30% of any gross payments made within the United States to certain holders who fail to provide us with, and certify under penalties of perjury, a correct taxpayer identifying number (employer identification number or social security number, as appropriate) or an exemption certificate on or before the date the securities are presented for payment. Those holders who are required to provide their correct taxpayer identifying number on Internal Revenue Service Form W-9 and who fail to do so may also be subject to a penalty of \$50. Please therefore provide the appropriate certification when presenting your securities for payment.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION To the Holders of

ENTE NAZIONALE IDROCARBURI E.N.I.

(National Hydrocarbons Authority)

6 3/4% Sinking Fund Debentures due June 1, 1988

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Sinking Fund for the Debentures of the above-described issue, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as Fiscal Agent, has selected by lot for redemption on June 1, 1985 at the principal amount thereof \$689,000 principal amount of said Debentures, as follows:

Outstanding Debentures of U.S. \$1,000 Each of Prefix "M" Bearing Serial Numbers Ending in the Following Two Digits:

42 48 50 51 58

Also Debentures of U.S. \$1,000 Each of Prefix "M" Bearing the Following Serial Numbers:

8370 1070

On June 1, 1985, there will become and be due and payable upon each Debenture the principal amount thereof, in such coin or currency of the United States of America as on said date is legal tender for the payment thereof of public and private debt, at the option of the holder, either (a) at the corporate trust office of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 13th Floor, 30 West Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10015, or (b) subject to any laws and regulations applicable thereto with respect to the payment, currency of payment or otherwise in the country of any of the following offices, at the principal office of Banca Nazionale del Lavoro in Rome or the principal office of Banca Commerciale Italiana in Milan or the main offices of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in London, Brussels, Paris or Frankfurt or the main office of Algemeene Bank Nederland N.V. in Amsterdam or the main office of Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourg in Luxembourg-Ville.

Debentures surrendered for redemption should have attached all unexpired coupons appertaining thereto. Coupons due June 1, 1985, should be detached and collected in the usual manner. From and after June 1, 1985, interest shall cease to accrue on the Debentures herein designated for redemption.

ENTE NAZIONALE IDROCARBURI
By: MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY
OF NEW YORK, Fiscal Agent

April 25, 1985

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ORIENT LEASING (CARIBBEAN) N.V.

KD.4,000,000 — 12 1/2% Guaranteed Notes due 1987

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Sinking Fund for the Notes of the above-described issue, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as Fiscal Agent, has selected by lot for redemption on June 1, 1985 at the principal amount thereof \$4,000,000 principal amount of said Notes, as follows:

Notes in Denomination of KD.1,000,000 — EACH

100 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00

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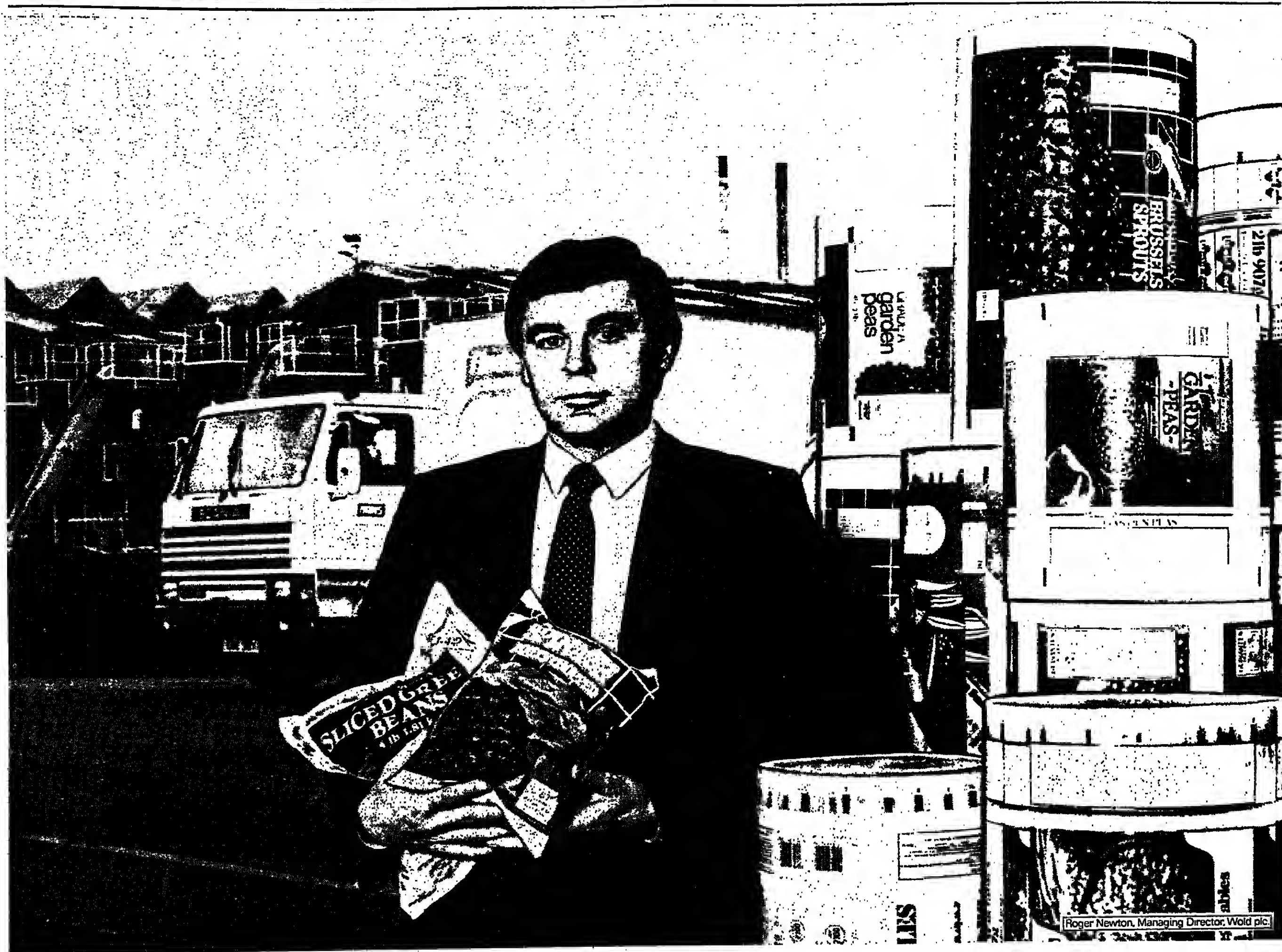
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THE ENTREPRENEUR



Roger Newton, Managing Director, Wold plc.

In December 1983, a syndicate of institutions led by Citicorp Venture Capital invested £3 million in Wold plc, a UK frozen vegetable processor. That was just three years after the industry had suffered a painful rationalisation, as massive expansion of production capacity outstripped market growth.

The company was originally formed as a farmers co-operative in 1966 and developed through vertical integration into a vegetable processing and freezing concern. In 1980, as a result of industry and company problems Roger Newton was appointed Managing Director.

Newton says, "We survived because we specialised in own label - as no one else did - and took the view that our strongest marketing aid was to have the best of production facilities and total control of agricultural supplies."

Using its own machinery, the company now drills, cultivates and harvests the majority of the raw vegetables it freezes.

By 1983, the company was not only back in profit, but poised for further expansion and seeking fresh risk capital. "As the British banking system is somewhat conservative," says Newton, "the logical place to look was the venture capitalists, of which Citicorp Venture Capital was probably the most successful."

Newton used the money raised by the Citicorp-led syndicate to increase sales flexibility, finance well-controlled buying and stocking policies, and for further technological innovation. Already a pioneer in computerised packing machinery, Wold now installed optronic processing control equipment, the first of its kind in Europe.

"Today the fresh frozen market is growing, and that growth is in own label," says Newton. Wold is growing with it and also by acquisition. In 1984 Wold acquired a national frozen distribution capability by purchasing a Smithfield wholesaler.

Now firmly in control of its own destinies - from the harrow, through the micro-chip, to the frozen food cabinet - Wold is prospering, and Citicorp Venture Capital continues to provide commercial and financial assistance.

Are you an entrepreneur? Here are some things you should know about Citicorp Venture Capital (CVC).

* Since starting up in the UK three years ago, we have invested in over 30 companies which now have a total annual turnover of over £350 million.

* We undertake three main types of venture capital financing:

"Replacement Capital" to buy-out existing shareholders and substitute a new capital structure.

This includes management buy-outs; acquisitions and mergers; and making a public company private.

"Expansion Capital" to finance growing companies at an early, or accelerating period in their development.

"Start-up Capital." CVC particularly favours situations where an established, well balanced management team is in place from day one, and can demonstrate a successful track record in relevant areas, especially technology.

* We are planning to invest over £100 million in venture capital in Europe in the coming years.

* We look only for a minority equity holding, because we believe that the operating management should be motivated by substantial equity ownership.

* We are more interested in the future cash flow potential of a company than in "security." Our aim is to invest in companies which will become successful.

* Unlike more traditional sources of finance, we are attracted to a business by the management's

abilities and its market potential, not purely by financial considerations.

* We are prepared to take a long term view of investments, and will help determine the exit route most suited to the requirements of the company: the USM, the sale-on of the company, a repeat buy-out of our equity by the management, or a full Stock Exchange listing.

* CVC's professional staff come from general management, technology, and manufacturing, as well as financial backgrounds. They are therefore able to understand the entrepreneur's business and investment needs, and can contribute continuing assistance and expert advice on the company's development.

* We have access to the international network of Citicorp, one of the world's largest financial institutions, with European venture capital offices in Paris, Frankfurt, Milan and London.

* For particularly large investments, we can assemble and lead a syndicate of investors.

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Or, if you simply would like a copy of our brochure containing more information, just ask Citicorp Venture Capital, 335 Strand, London WC2R 1LS. Telephone 01-438 1593.

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GLOBAL INVESTMENT BANKING

UK NEWS

Howe defends £240m funding to Community

BY IVOR OWEN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, the Foreign Secretary, assured the House of Commons yesterday that the Government would not seek parliamentary approval for the £240m payment to the European Community, agreed earlier in the day in Luxembourg, until Britain's Ecu 1bn (£580m) abatement for 1984 had been guaranteed.

Defending the Government's decision to agree to the £240m payment, he emphasised that it was "substantially" below the figure originally suggested by the EEC Commission. Parliament would not be asked to approve the £240m until the EEC's 1985 budget and provision for the UK's abatement had been completed.

Mr George Foulkes, a Labour frontbench spokesman on European affairs, challenged the Foreign Secretary to explain how the Government could claim to have ensured that improved budgetary discipline would be observed by the EEC when the £240m was the third sum of similar order agreed by ministers within a period of 12 months.

He protested that the EEC would continue to spend more on the open-ended commitment to agriculture, while cutting back on the money provided for regional and social policies that would help Britain. He emphasised that of the 50 poorest regions in Europe, 21 were in the UK.

Sir Geoffrey replied that Mr Foulkes did not seem to appreciate that powerful arrangements for the achievement of budgetary discipline in the Community had been set in place and would come into force with the adoption of the proposals made to increase the Community's own resources.

He emphasised that, throughout the consideration given to the EEC budget for last year and again for this year, "all these measures are being taken closely into account."

Mr Eric Deakin, a Labour MP, who led demands for more opportunities for MPs to question the Foreign Secretary about EEC affairs, described the decision to pay the £240m as "outrageous."

Mr Teddy Taylor, a leading anti-market on the government back benches, complained that despite the pledges and assurances obtained by the Government, the fact remained that the Community was spending £20m a day on dumping and destroying food surpluses and vastly overspending its agreed budget.

Mr Taylor insisted that it would be "crazy" for the Government to ask the House to approve giving an extra 25 per cent in real terms to the Community at a time when essential services at home were being cut back.

Sir Geoffrey refused to accept Mr Taylor's approach to the Community budget. But he agreed that it was important to maintain the pressure - which the Government had successfully maintained - for the establishment of effective budgetary discipline in the Community.

The Government had also made plain, he said, that implementation of the proposal to increase the Community's own resources would not be undertaken until all the components designed to achieve budgetary discipline were in place.

VEHICLE MAKERS ENDORSE 'PRUDENT MARKETING' POLICY

Japan to continue car curbs

BY KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

JAPANESE car producers yesterday agreed to continue their voluntary restrictions on shipments to the UK.

Members of the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association (Jama) said they would continue "prudent marketing" in Britain.

Although no figures are mentioned formally, the UK Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders assumes this means that the Japanese will, as in the past few years, restrict themselves to no more than 11 per cent of the British car market in 1985.

Japanese "prudence" also extends to the light commercial vehicle sector.

There has been some discussion about potential demand in the UK this year, with the Japanese taking a more optimistic view.

A joint communiqué issued after

three days of talks held near Tokyo said the two industry organisations had agreed on an estimate that this year in the UK car sales would be between 1.72m and 1.77m and light commercial vehicle sales between 214,000 and 220,000.

The lower figures are the UK society's forecasts for the year, and the statement added that, in accordance with the "prudent" policy, Jama members would bear in mind,

for the time being, the bottom end of the ranges in planning their shipments in 1985.

Representatives of the two organisations are to meet again in the autumn to review the market and the presidents are set to meet in the spring next year. In this week's meeting Mr Takashi Ishihara, Jama president, and Mr Harry Hooper, his counterpart at the SMMT, led the discussions.

TUC will study pit union's cash needs

BY PHILIP BASSETT

THE TRADES Union Congress (TUC) decided yesterday by the narrowest of margins to reconsider quickly a decision not to give immediate financial help to the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) with its operating costs after the year-long miners' strike.

Earlier this week the TUC's "inner cabinet," the finance and general purposes committee, decided by eight votes to two not to proceed immediately with the NUM's request for help to the value of £25,000 a week, but instead to ask Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, to seek further talks with the union on its financial standing.

Yesterday, the TUC general council refused to endorse this line, voting instead by 18-17 to refer the decision back for re-examination by the committee, which is likely to hold an emergency meeting shortly to consider the position, and to which NUM leaders may be invited.

Left-wingers argued strongly that the TUC ought to support the NUM while its funds are still seized by High Court-appointed sequestrators

and in the hands of the official receiver, because of the union's contempt of court.

Some on the left were arguing that the TUC's campaign fund of just over £300,000 should be used to help the NUM, although the fund was established to help unions specifically in difficulties with employment legislation, rather than the contract law on which the NUM was taken to court.

Others, however, urged greater caution, arguing that the legal complexities surrounding the money were unresolved, and that the TUC might be placing itself in jeopardy if it made over any money to the union.

Some right-wingers were questioning, too, the financial state of the NUM's constituent areas. The TUC is also unclear about what has happened to miners' union subscription income since the strike ended last month.

Mr Willis made it clear to the council that he would need to continue discussing the matter with the NUM.

Miners' strike takes huge toll in days lost

BY STUART JEFFRIES

BRITAIN lost a total of 28.1m working days as a result of the miners' strike, according to figures in the Department of Employment Gazette.

That figure is almost equivalent to the total number of working days lost in all industries and services during the whole of 1984, which was 26.564m.

In the quarter to March 1985, the UK lost 4.573m days through strikes, including 4m in the coal industry.

Of the remaining lost days, 172,800 were a result of teachers' action for an improved pay offer and Scottish teachers striking for an independent pay review.

The impact of the miners' strike is further emphasised by the fact that March figures for industrial stoppages were almost a quarter less than those in February. Of the 496,000 estimated days lost in March, 300,000 came from various coal disputes, even though the strike over pit closures ended on March 4.

The UK "occupied a broadly middle-ranking position" in an international comparison of industrial

stoppages in the decade to 1983.

Italy, Greece, Spain, Canada, Ireland and Australia suffered most from working days lost per employee, while the Netherlands, West Germany, Norway, Sweden and Japan suffered the least.

The large industrial dispute in the engineering industry in 1979 pushed up the UK's annual average to 500 days per thousand employees in the five years from 1979 to 1983.

None the less, this average was exceeded by Italy, Greece, Spain, Ireland, Canada and Australia, but the UK could not compete with the averages of West Germany and Japan.

The Banking, Insurance and Finance Union is to go ahead with a ballot on one-day strikes and an overtime ban in the English clearing banks even though the rival, non-TUC Clearing Bank Union has accepted an improved 6.5 per cent pay offer.

Barclays, National Westminster, Midland, Lloyds and Williams and Glyn's raised their offer to 180,000 clerical staff from 5.5 per cent after a sharp internal debate, with the bank chairman closely involved.

Low pay blamed for unfilled Civil Service posts

BY SUE CAMERON

FRESH EVIDENCE of Whitehall's failure to attract adequate numbers of first-class recruits emerged yesterday with publication of the Civil Service Commission's annual report. Low pay is increasingly being blamed for the growing difficulties the Civil Service is facing in recruitment.

The report discloses that the number of Civil Service vacancies increased by more than 20 per cent last year - but job applications dropped by 2 per cent. Vacancies remained unfilled in almost every job category covered by the commission.

The report also shows that a significant number of high-calibre people who were offered posts turned them down - and many of them gave low Civil Service pay as the reason for doing so.

The Civil Service Commissioners admit: "We are apprehensive about the continued ability of the Civil Service to attract candidates of very high quality at a time of increasing competition from other employers."

"Our recruitment experience suggests that nowadays a smaller proportion of the most able undergraduates than in the past regard the Civil Service as an attractive form of employment."

The commissioners emphasise that there are several reasons for such a change of attitude on the part of able young people. They add that pay levels are clearly one factor. Other "important considerations" include promotion prospects, intrinsic interest of the job, its location and the standing of civil servants in the community.

The commissioners say they had "particularly serious difficulty" in recruiting enough candidates of sufficient quality for certain specialist

posts including those for lawyers, engineers, statisticians and scientists. They add that it was not only specialist appointments that were extremely hard to fill.

"There is no doubt that in some problem areas there is a national shortage of those with the qualifications and experience we require," they say. "In such cases we are competing with other employers for a very limited pool of talent and the response to our recruitment schemes reflects the Civil Service's lack of attractiveness."

"In other cases our advertisements attract a reasonable field of applicants in terms of both quality and quantity but we find that our efforts are frustrated towards the end of the recruitment process as a result of a significant proportion of successful candidates - including very often, some of the best - declining the offer of appointment."

"Our follow-up research reveals that candidates have a variety of reasons for rejecting an appointment in the Civil Service. In the case of a number of recruitment schemes, however, uncompetitive pay features as the most commonly given reason."

Comments such as that will be warmly welcomed by Civil Service trades unions looking for further ammunition to use against the Government in their fight for higher pay.

One area where 1984 proved a particularly difficult year for recruitment was the large executive officer category. The Civil Service last year had 4,098 executive-officer vacancies and 31,845 applications were received. Only 3,598 appointments were made.

Oftel chief calls for widening of telecommunications competition

BY ANDREW ARENDS

THE DEVELOPMENT of effective competition in the UK telecommunications industry is "of critical importance to consumer interests," according to Professor Bryan Carsberg, director general of Oftel, the industry's regulatory watchdog.

Speaking at the Financial Times conference "Communications in the UK - the challenge of choice," Professor Carsberg said that, if the present regulatory structure did not generate effective competition, it would have to be changed.

Professor Carsberg went on to say that, until competition became effective, his office would be required to control British Telecom's tariffs. He added that, if the new liberalised telecommunications regime in the UK was to be successful, "BT must have the self-confidence and sense of social responsibility to accept that competition must become a reality." He said that BT must accept that it should not always strive to obtain 100 per cent of every market in which it operates by sweeping smaller competitors aside and discouraging entry into the market.

Mr John King, marketing and corporate director of British Telecom, said that there were tremendous commercial pressures in favour of the liberalisation of other European telecommunications networks. Mr King said that the main obstacle holding back liberalisation was an absence of political will in some European countries but that in the long term change was inevitable. He said that Britain, as a pioneer in the game, had taken the risks and now faced the challenge

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of exploiting the opportunities that existed.

Mr King said that in the UK the providers of telecommunications networks would not only be competing vigorously but at the same time "interconnecting" with each other. He said that appropriate conditions for interconnection had to be established. These included both technical and commercial conditions that would "reflect a fair return on investment for the connecting parties."

In opening the conference, Mr Brian Keyte, deputy general manager of the Management Services of the National Westminster Bank, said that the establishment of BT and the liberalisation of the industry had sharpened the attitudes of those engaged in the communications business. This, he claimed, could only be to the long-term advantage of users of telecommunications facilities in the UK, as well as to manufacturers and suppliers.

Mr Gordon Owen, managing director of Mercury Communications, the private telecommunications network operator, said that his company could provide nearly every service offered by British Telecom.

He said that liberalisation in Britain had moved with commendable speed and cited the advantages to the consumer of greater competi-

tion - such as the high-speed data links and fibre optics that Mercury was trying to provide for its customers. But he called for a more simple regulatory system and said that it was crucial to avoid building "unnecessary regulations in a deregulated environment." He said BT had become more efficient since Mercury had made its presence felt and that was surely the benefit of competition.

Mr John Kelly, chairman of the Telecommunications Managers Association, said users of telecommunications systems had to be more vocal in telling the market about their requirements.

Mr Roger Camrass, director of telecommunications at Butler Cox & Systems, the management consultants, said that the convergence of telecommunications and computer systems, combined with the wider choice offered by liberalisation, would increase the importance of telecommunications within organisations and place heavy demands on management responsible for it.

Mr Ian Ash, director of Information Technology at Cooper & Lybrand, agreed that many organisations today felt a fundamental need to review their investments in forms of information technology.

Mr Roger Gilly, a member of the Systems and Communications Group at Lloyd's Corporation, spoke of how overseas competition and increasing costs were forcing an organisation such as Lloyd's to establish new networks of data processing and communications.

FT may take legal action over stoppages

By Our Labour Staff

THE MANAGEMENT of the Financial Times is considering legal action against individual printers in its machine room over alleged industrial disruption and sabotage - claims that are denied by union representatives.

Production problems caused the loss of 88,000 copies of yesterday's paper printed in London and 40,000 copies of Tuesday's. More than 600,000 copies have been lost this year, causing the loss of £250,000 in advertising revenue in the first quarter.

Apart from an overtime ban by members of the National Graphical Association (NGA), the difficulties have included repeated breaks in paper rolls and the breaking of printing plates.

In a memo to staff, Mr Frank Barlow, chief executive, attributed those to "nihilistic and destructive industrial action" by the NGA and Sogat '82 chapels. Union officials say there have been genuine difficulties with the quality of paper rolls.

Mr Barlow claimed that the trouble was linked to the failure of talks at Acat, the conciliation service, this week on the long-running issue of pay and manning in the machine room.

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The Falcon 900 is a Leader in performance, too. With an effective range of 7,000 km (carrying 8 passengers and NBAA IFR reserves), it can easily fly from Paris to New York, from London to Abu Dhabi, from Tokyo to Jakarta. And the Falcon 900 can climb directly to 39,000 ft which puts it above international commercial air traffic. The Falcon 900 can cruise at up to Mach .85 (904 km/h) and has been flown at 94% of the speed of sound in test flights.

The Falcon 900 is also the Leader in efficiency. For long range operation, take-off weight is 20 tons, 10 tons less than its closest competitor under the same conditions and with the same

payload. Thanks to its latest-generation Garrett engines, its excellent aerodynamics and lighter weight, the Falcon 900's fuel consumption is record-breaking low: some 1/3 less than the above competitor, whose engine consumes almost as much fuel when idling on the runway as that of the Falcon 900 when cruising at Mach .80.

These figures highlight the sophisticated aerodynamic design of the Falcon 900, utilizing Dassault computer technology developed for the famous Mirage fighters - an experience that's unique among producers of business jets.

The Falcon 900 also scores first for safety. In the unlikely event that one engine should fail, the remaining two can easily supply the requisite thrust and maintain operation of the aircraft's critical systems. This level of security obviously cannot be matched by twin-jet aircraft, either now or in the future, whatever the developments in international regulations.

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Business takes off with Falcon

UK NEWS

Tebbit does not rule out single City supervisor

BY KEVIN BROWN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

THE GOVERNMENT has not ruled out the creation of a single, self-regulatory body to supervise the City of London, instead of the two boards envisaged in the White Paper (policy document) on financial services, Mr Norman Tebbit, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Tebbit told the House of Commons that he intended to legislate in the next session of parliament on the basis of the White Paper, which arose out of a report on investor protection by Prof Lawrence Gower.

He acknowledged criticism of the proposal that regulation should be split between a Securities and Investments Board (SIB) and a Marketing of Investments Board (MIB) and said the background to the proposal lay in advice received from the Governor of the Bank of England and a group of insurance and unit trust representatives.

A number of Conservative MPs criticised the role of the Governor of the Bank of England in the appointment of the chairman of the SIB.

Mr Tebbit said the Government's objectives in creating a supervisory body were to enable the financial services industry to operate efficiently, to stimulate innovation, to inspire confidence in investors and issuers, and to ensure that the system of regulation was flexible enough not to be overtaken by events.

The changes in the City of London that had occurred since 1983 - when the Restrictive Trade Practices Court case against the Stock Exchange was dropped by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the former Trade and Industry Secretary - had enhanced

the position of the City as one of the primary financial centres of the world, he said.

He had decided not to uproot the system that had served the City so well, but to build on it, repair its faults and bring it up to date.

There was a long tradition of self-regulation in the City, but gaps were showing between the regulated areas as markets changed at a remarkable pace.

The bodies to which the Secretary of State devolved powers would be responsible for drawing up rules for the authorisation of investment business and the conduct of business along the lines laid down in the White Paper.

Mr Tebbit said he would have to be convinced the rules were adequate and would be effectively enforced before powers would be delegated.

The bodies involved would include both practitioners and users of financial services, as well as market regulators, so that the identification of rule-breaking and response to it would be rapid and flexible.

In response to a challenge over the role of the Governor of the Bank of England and his right of veto on the appointment of the chairman of the SIB, Mr Tebbit said there was a strong body of opinion in the City that favoured the involvement of professional opinion in the appointment of the chairman.

Mr Tebbit said it had been argued that the cost of regulation, which he stressed would fall on the users of financial markets, would make the UK a less competitive place in which to do business.

BID FOR MATTHEW BROWN REFERRED TO MONOPOLIES PANEL

Brakes on brewery takeover

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR

THE GOVERNMENT intervened yesterday in the £182m takeover bid for Matthew Brown, the Blackburn-based brewer, with a decision to refer Scottish & Newcastle Breweries' bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

This is the second time within a year that S&N's ambitions to expand by taking over a regional brewer have fallen foul of a reference on monopolies grounds.

S&N abandoned an attempt to take over J. U. Cameron, a Harte-pool-based brewer, by means of a £44m agreed offer when its approach was referred to the commission last June. Neither Cameron nor S&N was prepared to await the outcome of the monopolies review.

In contrast, S&N said yesterday that it intended to follow through the monopolies reference, although a decision on whether to refer its bid would be taken only when the

commission's report is published in about seven months' time.

The decision by Mr Norman Tebbit, Trade and Industry Secretary, to refer the bid to the commission accorded with the advice given him by the Office of Fair Trading. It means that S&N's offer automatically lapses.

This is only the second time that a proposed merger between two brewers has been referred in monopolies grounds. The big beer mergers of the 1960s and 1970s went through without encountering monopolies objections.

Mr Allick Rankin, S&N's chief executive, said: "This is a bitter disappointment. When the Cameron deal was referred we felt it was our responsibility as directors to clear up what was permitted and what was not."

"We went to the Department of Trade and two other ministries and

got clear-cut statements of their understanding. Armed with this we went off and did our planning. Then the emotion, the petitions and the distortions that our bid would lead to job losses started and all the finest intentions of government departments went up in smoke."

Matthew Brown's share price, which had fallen well below the level of the S&N offer over the past week, fell a further 20p to 385p yesterday while S&N eased up to 135p.

At yesterday's S&N share price its offer was worth 453p a share or £102m. That compared with a value of £26m when the bid was launched on March 18, although S&N subsequently added 405p cash to its offer of 14 of its own shares for every five Matthew Brown.

S&N is expected to ask the commission to look closely at the role of Whitbread, another leading brewer,

Gist-Brocades loses patents appeal

BY RAYMOND HUGHES, LAW COURTS CORRESPONDENT

A "LICENSEE as of right" obtainable under the 1977 Patents Act, takes effect as soon as it is applied for, even though its terms, including the royalties to be paid to the patent owner, may not then have been agreed or settled, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

The court also ruled that an application to fix the terms cannot be made until the start of a four-year extension of the patent provided for by the Act.

The rulings, the first of which runs contrary to a widespread assumption in the patent field, were made in a case that raised a novel and potentially urgent point of very general importance under the Patents Act, Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, said.

The court dismissed an appeal by Gist-Brocades, a Dutch drugs com-

pany, and its UK associate, Brocades (Great Britain), which wants to compete with the Beecham Group in the UK market for a bronchitis antibiotic during next winter's "bronchitis season."

Last month the Patent Court refused Gist-Brocades' claim for an order requiring the Comptroller General of Patents to settle at once the terms of a licence to market in the UK Amoxycillin, the patent of which is owned by Beecham.

Beecham's 16-year patent expires on August 18, but can be extended for a further four years, during which time licences as of right will be available.

The Comptroller decided that he had no power under the Act to settle the terms of a licence until after August 18.

Gist-Brocades argued that, as it

took about a year to process an application, it was entitled to apply to have the terms settled in time for its licence to operate as soon as licences as of right became available.

Sir John Donaldson agreed that the Comptroller could not act until the beginning of the extension period. He rejected the view of both Gist-Brocades and Beecham, which had been accepted by the Patent Court, that a licence could not take effect until all the terms had been agreed or settled.

He pointed out that the Act provided for either the owner of the patent or the person requiring a licence to apply to the Comptroller for the terms to be settled. If the licence took effect only when the terms had been settled, there was no obvious reason why the owner should need to be able to invoke the Comptroller's assistance, he said.

ICL's new computer family sets seal on recovery plan

ICL PUT the final and most important plank of its recovery programme into place yesterday with the launch of a family of powerful mainframe computers that significantly strengthen its existing range.

The new machines - known as Series 39 - will help the company to fend off the intense efforts of its competitors to persuade ICL customers to switch to their mainframe systems. Most organisations that are likely to buy a large computer are already committed to one manufacturer's system in which they have a substantial investment.

ICL's past financial difficulties and weaknesses in its product line have made the company's customers a favourite target for its main U.S. competitors. ICL is now stronger financially and was also taken over by Standard Telephones and Cables last year.

The new ICL computers are the product of a key technological collaboration with Fujitsu, one of the leading Japanese electronics groups, which has significantly cut the development costs. Although ICL has collaborative deals with other companies for technology and products, the link with Fujitsu is the most important because it has given ICL direct access to advanced microchip technology.

It meant that ICL could design the logic chips for its new computers using the latest microelectronic technology before it was generally available. Such a link put the company on a more equal footing with computer manufacturers, such as IBM, which have their own semiconductor production and technology.

The collaboration was also important because the Series 39 mainframes are critical to ICL's future. Although the company has been entering new markets such as private telephone exchanges, mainframe computers are still its core business.

The new machines, which cost

Jason Crisp reports on the new range of computers that ICL has produced in collaboration with Fujitsu of Japan.

from £150,000 to about £3m, join ICL's existing family of 2900 computers. An important point is that the new models use the same operating system (known as VME) as the 2900 series, which means they will also run the same software - something which computer manufacturers do not always do when they launch new machines.

The most powerful computer in the range - the new Series 39 Level 88 - is 25 times as powerful as the smallest ICL says that is the widest range of machines from any manufacturer to use a single operating system.

ICL says that all this year's production of between 50 and 75 new machines has already been sold. Most of the initial production will be going to the UK, although ICL says it has sold one in France. They will also be sold in Australasia, Africa, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. ICL has no immediate plans to try and sell them in the U.S.

Since its rescue in 1981, ICL has been concentrating on more specific markets where it has been traditionally strong, rather than trying to sell to everyone. Its main markets are public administrations such as local government, retailing, financial services other than banking, manufacturing and defence in the UK.

The launch of the new machines is later than originally promised although ICL was exceptional because it announced them as part of its recovery plan nearly four years ago. Most computer manufacturers are secretive about new products but ICL needed to convince doubting customers that it had credible plans for the future.

The new products were first announced by Mr Robb Wilton, the energetic and youthful businessman brought to the Government to revitalise ICL. Four years ago, ICL had plunged into deep financial crisis and had to be rescued by a reluctant and sceptical government with £220m in loan guarantees.

The price of the rescue was a new management team which immediately embarked on a much-needed and far-reaching shake-up of the company. The workforce of more than 30,000 was cut by 10,000 in a matter of months and a new product strategy was put in place involving a number of international alliances with companies such as Fujitsu, Mitel of Canada and Rair in Britain.

In addition, ICL has undergone a substantial management reorganisation intended to make the company more entrepreneurial and more market-oriented. Before the changes ICL had a reputation for being bureaucratic, slow-moving and, as the crisis grew, demoralised. Mr Peter Bonfield, managing director of ICL, said the company was driven by technology and not markets.

A key part of the reorganisation has been the creation of "business centres" which have their own profit-and-loss responsibility. These bring together under one team the responsibility for development and marketing strategy of a single product. The object of the centres is to speed up new product introduction and create a closer link between product development and marketing.

The most obvious product of the new centres has been the development of the "One Per Desk" (OPD) a combined personal computer and advanced telephone which costs significantly less than similar products from other companies. The OPD was launched last year as the result of close collaboration with Sinclair Research.

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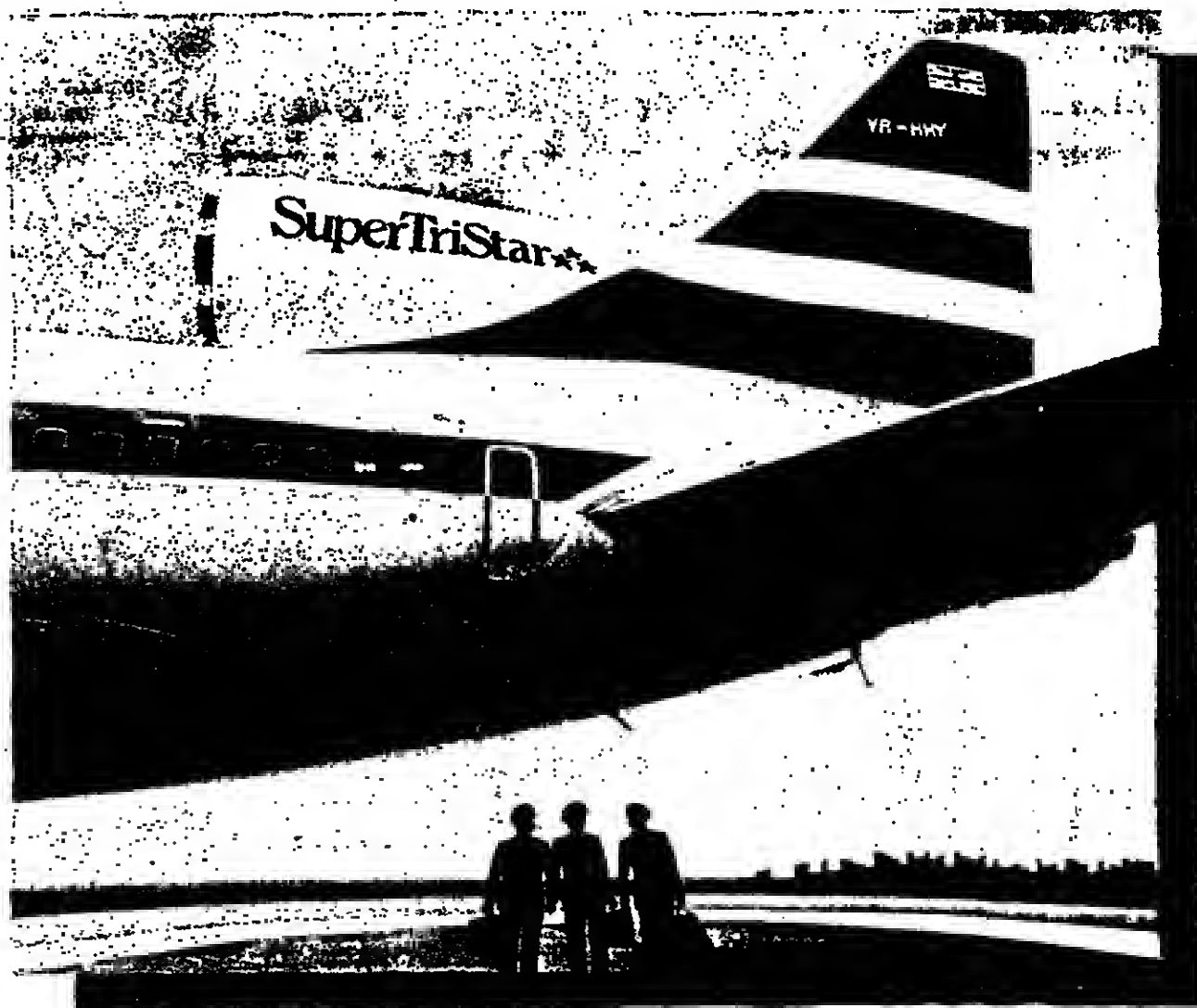


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UK NEWS

Anglo-Canadian venture plans cancer research

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

WELLCOME, the drugs group, and the Terry Fox Medical Research Foundation, a Canadian charity, are to build an £10m research centre near Vancouver, in an Anglo-Canadian joint venture to exploit interferon and other novel drugs from Wellcome's biotechnology research.

The company disclosed yesterday that it was seeking government approval for the use of its interferon to treat several diseases, including a rare form of cancer called hairy cell leukaemia, and genital warts.

The new research centre is the first of several similar ventures Wellcome is negotiating in Britain, Japan and the U.S., to develop medical biotechnology.

The idea is to bring biotechnology scientists in closer touch with the clinician who is treating patients with the products of new biotechnologies such as cell culture and genetic engineering.

The Canadian biomedical centre will be next to a new hospital, completed only five years ago, on the campus of the University of British Columbia.

Of the £31m (£17.3m) available for the project, £15m is allocated to the construction of laboratories and pilot fermentation facilities for a team of about 50 initially, and

£15m to run the centre for five years.

Mr Bill Castell, managing director of Wellcome Biotechnology, the subsidiary that negotiated the venture, said the laboratory would develop five new substances into treatments for patients.

The substances are the three primary forms of interferon - alpha, beta and gamma - prepared by Wellcome's cell culture techniques, together with genetically engineered forms of tumour necrosis factor (TNF) and lymphotxin.

All five are expected to find a role in treating cancer - the main purpose of the laboratory - but they will probably be used in combination, and the regime will differ for each form of the disease.

Under its arrangements with the university, the centre will have access to some powerful research tools for exploring the progress of new treatments in patients.

They include one of the world's best-equipped centres for medical imaging, using the nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and other techniques.

The partners say they are seeking a director of international stature for the centre, and have set up a search committee of scientists headed by Sir William Henderson, president of the London Zoo and a director of Wellcome Biotechnology.

Arthur Sandles looks at the changing profile of Britain's travel industry

Rough weather for tour operators

SO ROUGH has play become in the UK travel business this year that casualties are being carried off early.

Even the mighty Great Universal Stores has had to ditch Global into the eager arms of Mr Harry Goodman's Intasun group with the sight: "We could not compete effectively with major tour companies." It was with virtually the same words a few months ago that Granada folded its tour side, Sunhurst.

Normally, however, it is necessary to wait for the autumn to count the wounded in tour operating. It is only then, as the summer hills start pouring in, that the blood-letting shows.

This year the wounds are very much deeper. Some of the top 10 tour companies are said to be showing booking levels half as good as they were a year ago, while many of the smaller companies had an extremely difficult time getting through their annual licensing procedures with the Civil Aviation Authority.

When the deal is completed in November of this year, Intasun Leisure should emerge as roughly equal in size to Thomson. The performance of both groups in their respective market places will decide which actually is the champion.

Watching that performance is going to be something of a travel industry spectacle, since the two could hardly be more different in their corporate approach to the present difficulties in the business, and to their own growth.

Intasun is a loosely knit conglomerate of free-standing operations. Thomson Travel is three firmly linked divisions - airline, hotels and tour operating. Intasun has diversified by acquisition, Thomson by organic development. Most significant of all, this year Intasun has placed its trust in an explosive late demand for holidays, while Thomson has cut capacity to preserve margins in a sluggish market.

Over the past three years, the battle between these two groups has enlivened the travel business and humiliated any who stood in the same ring. Horizon, the No 3 for the moment, has suffered particularly in having to match offer and counter-offer from the two giants. Cosmos, the secretive and privately owned group which, like Intasun, operates out of the south London suburb of Bromley, is emerging from a night of the long knives in its boardroom.

Factors that have helped to provoke those problems include price-cutting by Thomson and Intasun and the sudden collapse of the package tour market from Britain to Spain. It is the reality, or otherwise, of that collapse that is going to sort the men from the boys this year.

Two companies have decided that the market is going to recover - Intasun and the British Airways subsidiary, Enterprise. Most of the others, notably Cosmos, Thomson, and Blue Sky (the British Caledonian tour offshoot) appear to think that things will stay bad, at least if their consolidations pattern is any indication.

Consolidations in tour operating means cancellation. You cancel half-sold flights and "consolidate" them on to others. If you have many flights to some destinations, as all the majors do, you hope that the customer has not noticed that his departure is now a few hours different from what he was told originally.

If you are a smaller company, or if the bookings are in early or late season when you have fewer flights, the customers do notice and frequently complain.

Intasun has been reluctant to cut its capacity for the coming season. In theory, that exposes it to punishing costs if the bookings fail to arrive in late April and early May. Thomson, having cut back, is much more able to restrict its downside risk.

In practice, Intasun has negotiated a much-envied flying contract with the British Airways charter subsidiary, Airtoura. The details are secret but they are thought to give Intasun greater flexibility than is normal.

So tempting was the British Airways offer that Intasun sold part of its own airline fleet - a deal that led to complaints about unfair competition by the state-owned carrier from Thomson and Horizon.

If Intasun is doing so well with its basic tour operating, why should it want to buy Global, an apparently ailing rival?

Intasun strategy has been to buy self-contained operations in sectors

it wishes to enter. It has done so with the youth market (Club 18-30), budget holidays (Lancaster) and school ski holidays (Schoolplan).

Mr Goodman, head of Intasun, is at present backing a former Rank director, Mr Peter Drew, in a new venture. "What Harry likes to do is give people a job with terrible pay and wonderful share options," an industry observer said. "If you are a success, you become rich. If you fail, you are broke and out. You need courage and confidence to take it on."

An Intasun director denied that that was the case. "We pay the industry rate," he said. "But it is true that our managers get very good incentives."

The deal with Global takes Intasun into the coach tour business and the booming incoming travel market. The price will depend on Global's performance this summer and might, therefore, be anything between £2m and £3m.

Once one of Britain's biggest tour companies, Global has seen its share of the massmarket to the Mediterranean has shrunk in recent years. At the moment it is thought to hold about 2 per cent of the total business compared with Intasun's 15 per cent and market leader Thomson's share of more than 20 per cent.

However, Global is one of Britain's biggest coach tour operators, not only taking Britons on trips into Europe but also bringing Australians, New Zealanders and some Americans into the UK and on to continental tours.

The Sun also sets.

If all you want on your holiday is sunshine, you're too easily satisfied.

You're also fortunate, because the world is full of places, some nice and some quite nasty, that can give you what you seek.

But what will you do when you've had enough sun?

And what will you do when it sets?

A holiday should be a pleasure at any hour you favour, under the sun or the stars, in your choice of landscape, whether you're active or sedentary, culture-minded or hedonistic.

If you agree with us, and want your holiday to satisfy all of your senses and sensibilities, read on about Spain.

The mountains or the shore?

Spain has plenty of both.

Our mountains, among the highest in Europe, offer some of the world's best and least crowded skiing. There's great climbing, too, and every other mountain sport in season.

As for the shore, take your choice of beaches from nearly 6,000 Km. of coastline.

Have a great Spanish holiday at sky level or at sea level.

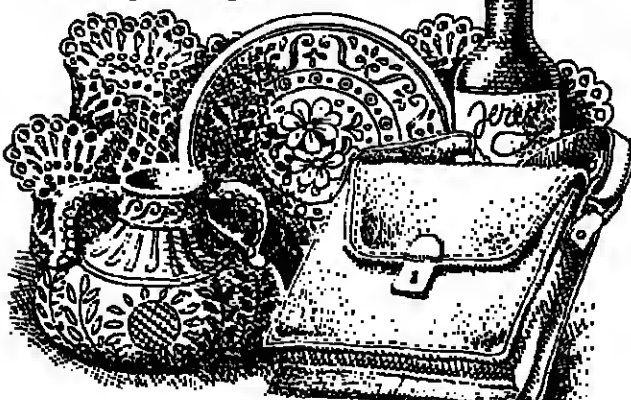
It's up (or down) to you.

What if you sunburn easily?

Spend part of each day indoors.

In shops, for instance, selling choice leather, lace, porcelains, antiques and art.

Or come indoors to see things money can't buy. In the great museums of



Spain are displayed troves of priceless treasures.

Or stroll in the shade of castles and palaces, mosques and alcazars.

Spain has thousands of ways to tempt you in, out of the sun.

What happens after sunset?

You understand a people when you understand how they eat.

Not just the cuisine, but where, how, when and with whom it is enjoyed.

We start with "tapas", snacks in amazing variety, eaten at stand-up bars at eight or nine in the evening. That's the time to meet us and make new friends, in the hours before dinner starts at ten or eleven at night.

Then you can maintain the informal note or go to dress-up places serving haute cuisine as splendid as any in Europe. As for us, we love seafood simply prepared, and even hundreds of miles inland you'll find it fresh daily. Our regional dishes are so varied that you might think they come from many countries and cultures. And our

regional wines keep them perfect company.

By the time you've savored the last of your Spanish brandy, you will have had a late night. And the fun is only starting.

Enjoy our longest, latest nights.

At Spanish fiestas, the party seldom stops until sunrise.

And at many, not until two or three sunrises have passed.

No matter when you come to Spain, you will find a fiesta somewhere. There are literally hundreds throughout the year. Some are simple Saints' days in little village squares. But these are often wonderful for their intimacy, the welcome given to strangers and their sense of natural, unplanned gaiety.

Others are spectacles, elaborately staged and wardrobe. See processions, mock battles, floral decoration competitions, wine harvests or solemnly impressive holy days. Or watch the breaking of wild horses or the showing of exquisitely trained horses. Or see the running of the bulls at the St. Fermin fiesta in Pamplona, made famous by Hemingway.



Every fiesta is a party, and you're invited to them all.

What's to do at night between fiestas? If night clubs, casinos, ballet, opera, jazz, folk music, discos, rock music and flamenco dancers don't interest you, there really isn't very much.

Perhaps people-watching at an outdoor cafe while sipping a rare sherry might catch your imagination. Or you could just go to your room and read a book.

Speaking of rooms...

Spain offers every kind of accommodation, from simple country inns to world-class deluxe hotels.

Some of our most modern hotels are in some of our most ancient buildings. Many castles and other historic landmarks have been converted with ingenuity and elegance, featuring art and furnishings of their periods. Interestingly, even our newest and most fashionable resort hotels use traditional Spanish architectural themes and decor, so you never have that modern sense of déjà vu found in the usual "international" resort.

We have heard that one young woman, asked where she went on

her holiday, replied "I don't know. We flew." Never in Spain.



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Gold Mining Companies administered by the
Johannesburg Mining and Finance Corporation
Group

Reports for the quarter ended 31 March 1985

Egoli Consolidated Mines Limited Group

Issued share capital: 100 000 000 shares of 50 cents each fully paid

Quarter ended 31 March 1985

Quarter ended 31 December 1984

Year ended 31 March 1985

Group totals

Operating results

Tons treated 144 161 214 225 814 134

Yield g/t 0.66 0.78 0.70

Production - kg 95.65 168.84 571.22

Cost (R/kg) R10.58 R12.73 R11.00

Cost (R/kg) R15.94 R16.34 R15.623

Average gold price received (R/kg) R19.956 R20.104 R16.119

Financial results

Revenue from gold production (including R1 257 047 other operating revenue, one and same sales in the quarter ended 30 June 1984)

1 908 792 3 356 208 11 643 451

Less Working costs 1 525 441 2 726 675 8 955 165

363 351 629 533 2 688 286

Add Other net income/(expenditure) (includes income resulting from the rationalisation of the West Rand Treatment Operations to West)

4 670 585 (220 079) 4 046 206

Net income before taxation 5 053 896 407 454 6 734 492

Taxation 3 265 3 587 12 631

Net income after taxation 5 050 671 403 867 6 721 861

Capital expenditure/(recoupment) - mining (7 265 544) 634 613 (5 358 799)

- other 12 860 6 724 38 524

The reduction in working costs for the current quarter is accounted for by the disposal of the West Rand Sand Treatment Operations to West

Whitewater and Gold Mines Limited. However, this figure takes no account of attributable income in respect of West Whitewater and Gold Mines Limited amounting to -

617 278 161 998 660 008

Adjusted in terms of the West Rand Rationalisation scheme.

Operating results by company

Johannesburg Mineral Corporation Limited

Tons treated 100 014 174 275 635 439

Yield g/t 0.62 0.74 0.69

Production - kg 61.95 126.15 436.19

Cost (R/kg) R10.13 R12.19 R10.32

Cost (R/kg) R15.33 R16.37 R14.933

Average gold price received (R/kg) R20.158 R19.587 R17.994

Capital expenditure/(recoupment) (R7 852 541) (R1 366 259)

The results above reflect the sale of the Egoli West Reduction Plant to West

Whitewater and Gold Mines Limited as at 17 February 1985.

Springs Dagga Gold Mines Limited

Tons treated 44 147 39 960 134 658

Yield g/t 0.76 0.93 0.83

Production - kg 33.70 37.19 114.43

Revenue (R/kg) R14.86 R19.42 R16.20

Cost (R/kg) R11.81 R15.30 R14.93

Working profit (R/kg) R3.04 R4.12 R1.27

Production - kg 33.70 37.19 114.43

Cost (R/kg) R15.33 R16.37 R14.933

Average gold price received (R/kg) R20.158 R19.587 R17.994

Working profit (R/kg) R3.04 R4.12 R1.27

Capital expenditure R585 997 R616 813 R2 027 540

Current operations

Underground stoping trials continue with the aim of establishing the optimum mining method to exploit the Kimberley Reef. While the production rate was, below expectations, the reasons have been identified and steps are in hand to improve productivity.

New mine project

Agreements in principle have recently been reached in regard to the injection of R 41 million for a new mine within the very large mining area (over 11 000 claims) held by the company. Shareholders will be given the relevant details very shortly.

Mariner Mining Corporation Limited

Tons treated - - - 43 597

Yield g/t - - - 0.46

Production - kg - - - 19.60

Cost (R/kg) - - - R6.04

Cost (R/kg) - - - R20.075

Average gold price received (R/kg) - - - R15.376

Capital expenditure (R) - - - R349 376

As announced to shareholders on 13 August 1984 the operations of the Nigel treatment plant were suspended at the beginning of that quarter.

For an on behalf of the boards

Investments and Technical Management Limited

Signed by D. T. A. Lonsdale

25 April 1985 A1912



The Republic of Italy

U.S.\$ 500,000,000

Floating Rate Notes due 2005

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the initial interest period from 24 April, 1985 to 24 May, 1985 the Notes will carry an interest rate of 8 1/4% per annum. The interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, 24 May, 1985 will be US\$70.31 per US\$10,000 nominal amount and will be paid only through Cede SA and Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, Brussels Office, as operator of the Euroclear System, in accordance with the terms of the Temporary Global Note.

24 April, 1985.
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THE ARTS

Royal Academy/Roy Strong
Cats, parrots and Lear

Juliet Stevenson... the promise of a great Rosalind

As You Like It/Strafford-upon-Avon

Martin Hoyle

A fine spring evening and Shakespeare's birthday should have combined for something special on St George's Day in the RSC's 25th anniversary season, excitingly marked, among other things, by the opening of a gallery of Shakespearean and the steady batching of the Swan. In the event Adrian Noble's *As You Like It* produced a fine clown, uneasy comedy, a number of tricks that hardly hung together, and the promise of a great Rosalind.

A promise only, perhaps because the emotional mood is curiously leaden, and Juliet Stevenson's warmth and common sense operate in a vacuum. Much of the humour is physical, indeed almost mechanical, which suits Nicky Henson's vigorous Touchstone (who falls in real water twice, no less), but leave subtler performers like Fiona Shaw working like mad to make their pre-dilettante points funny.

We met Hilton McRae's Scots-accented Orlando in muddy modern working-clothes, Celia and Rosalind in recent evening-gowns the latter's glitter top and side-swept hair style are singularly heaving. The dual court is swathed in dusty sheets which conceal not merely furniture but Touchstone, complete with inseparable umbrella, in tails and elowish whiteface. Miss Shaw's Celia unsteadily

clutches Champagne, cheers her cousin a trifle sharply and is miffed by the obvious attraction between Rosalind and the young wrestler. In the production's one example of clear character development, she is in a rural exile, relaxing in the forest sunshine when not mugging on—she must beware of this—coming over as a Penelope Keltie clone.

Chief culprit is Mr Noble, who displays no consistent approach to the play, and no overall vision beyond trying out a number of ideas, not all of which come off. The white groundsheet dominates Bob Crowley's set. The fugitives trail it behind them until it covers the stage, creating a snowy Arden where the exiled court shivers in ragged evening clothes. Orlando attaches his poems to a double strand of cable that rises to draw the white sheet into a panorama of cascading fabric which hides, blinds or clothes the characters. The floor is now green; birdsong and rushing water effects labor; the point that spring is here; and about time.

The cloth becomes the billowing roof of a tented pavilion for the final unravelling of the knot, a near-ritual of loving resolution that never fails to move. In the meantime Alan Rickman's intelligent, sardonic

—even faintly threatening—Jacques has impressed, though the seven ages of man are milked, mimicked, mimed and generally pulled about for effect. Other oddities include the apparent pursuit and shooting of Celia by the buntumen though she emerges unscathed a few minutes later. Dream sequences are always a cheat, and here an irrelevance.

Ms Stevenson's long-awaited Rosalind can touch the heart with "Men have died from time to time, and worms have eaten them; but not for love." Her vigorous mock-wowing in baggy white trousers and red braces, with Orlando is overtly feminine (no ambivalence or puzzled undertones here). Her delighted shout of "love is merely a madness" before she renounces her boy's role and corrects herself typifies her boundless energy, even if as yet it is expended on externals.

Phoebe's vamping of this Ganymede is over-the-top and her Silvius is more a Petticoat Lane spiv than a rustic. By the play's conclusion the initially spirited Orlando—after a wrestling match that would not disgrace the telly screen—has dwindled into unsuitable boyishness without depth. With all the intelligence and resources at hand, the hit-or-miss result of this unimpaired production is doubly disappointing.

Il ritorno di Casanova/Geneva

Andrew Clark

No one likes to write off a new, large-scale composition after a single hearing, but *Il ritorno di Casanova* by the Sicilian composer, Girolamo Arrigo, offers a rare temptation. Commissioned by Radio France to write a new opera, Arrigo has put together an artful edifice that seems to have little real substance. It was premiered at the Grand Théâtre in Geneva and will be heard again next March in Paris.

Casanova, based on an early-20th century novel by the Viennese author, Arthur Schnitzler, charts the return to Venice, after a long exile, of the legendary 18th century womaniser who in later life was forced to spy on and even kill his successors and competitors in order to make new conquests and save his own skin. This portrait of decadence and hitherence—contrasting the freshness of youth with the irreversible onset of old age—offers scope for wit and pathos, and is good material for an opera. The libretto has been expertly fashioned by Giuseppe di Leva. But Arrigo's score is bland, lightweight and deriva-

tive, the kind of tame, advertisement-contemporary, opera can do without. The compositional style in *Casanova* pays homage to Italian lyricism and traditional Italian operatic structures, including aria-melodrama, duets and unaccompanied ensembles. The writing for voice is technically accomplished and the part-writing shows considerable finesse. But Arrigo's own musical language seems a dextrous merging of styles from other periods into an anonymous quasi-modern melting pot: a smattering of 17th-century litanies, the occasional Donizettian trill there, touches of neoclassical rhythm and light neo-Romantic harmonic textures, and a banal orchestral accompaniment of whole Spontini would have been proud.

Nor can Arrigo be regarded as displaying a talent for theatre, although the musical linking of scenes in each of the two acts brings welcome continuity, there is little attempt to differentiate mood, character and colour, and he has failed to find a satisfactory musical metaphor for the erotic element. The scenes that communicated most were those in which the action stopped and

characters were left to think aloud.

Cast and stage director face an uphill struggle trying to hold an audience's attention through the remaining two-and-a-quarter hours of music. Jorge Lavelli, who began his career in the lyric theatre by staging Arrigo's *Orchestra* for Arvignon in 1969, showed ingenuity and imagination in mounting each scene, aided by Agostini Pace's stylish and versatile representational decor and by experienced singers like Jules Bastin and Enzo Casanova in character parts. The stage presence and tonal richness of the two female principals—Fiorella Piccinini in the soprano role of Marcolina and the American mezzo, Katherine Ciesinski, as Casanova's ageing cast-off Amelia—were also major assets.

The title role ideally requires the visual magnetism and vocal weight of a Ruggiero Raimondi. Scott Reeve, making his European debut, looked and sounded too young for the part. Stage and pit were well co-ordinated by Reynold Giovanetti; but with such an apologetic critical score, nobody could complain of being overstretched.

I am not sure I would have liked Mr Lear (Tennyson didn't, in the end) except if I had been either a child or beloved Foss. The latter ranks high in my list of famous cats—"I'm a hoon gatto Foss," as Lear described him on his tombstone; writing at the same time to a friend that the cat had been with him for 30 years when, in fact, he had died of 14. Poor Foss had his tail chopped off by an Italian servant who believed that a cat would never stray from a house in which he had left his tail.

In the exhibition on Lear at the Royal Academy (until July 14), this striped cat pops up everywhere in the artist's self-caricatures of himself and, of course, he stalks in a Nonsense alphabet above one of my favourite conifers: "C" was a lovely Pussy Cat. Its eyes were large and pale. And on its back it had some stripes, and several on its tail."

From this Nonsense image of Foss streams down a hunched comical cat from Tom Kitten to Orlando, the famous Marmalade Cat. The section of the exhibition devoted to Lear's Nonsense is an explosion of delight and learning, but we never given any signposts as to where this repository of extraordinary animals and people came from. What, in short, were Lear's intentions? Looking at these weird inventions one thinks perhaps of a debt to Gillray. The dotty travel cartoons recall Rowlandson and Dr Syntax and there must be a debt also to the fantasy literature of the *biedermeier* period. There it is; the owl and the pussycat, the Gallo-

Pie, the jumbies, the endless jimericks—but no clues to its origin.

I found that irritating in what is billed as a major reassessment of the man, a biographical exhibition of the kind that used to be staged at the National Portrait Gallery up until a decade ago; it is directly in line with their Peppys, Richard III and Sir Thomas More. Indeed, the decision to stage the exhibition in biographical, as against art historical, terms accounts both for its fascination and for a certain confusion as to purpose. On reflection, I don't think that could have been avoided given the nature of the beast. Lear was the 20th child of a family of 21, an epileptic who suffered from asthma and bronchitis. He also was short-sighted. He emerges as a modest, unassuming character whose abilities were as uneven as his talents were diverse.

There is no denying that he



A Nonsense bird

SNO/Barbican

Richard Fairman

There was a rarity at the heart of this programme. The Scottish National Orchestra does not visit London often and it was a double pleasure to welcome it for its Barbican concert on Tuesday with a concert as frequently heard as Dvorak's *Ten biblical songs*. Some of these do surface from time to time outside recitals; but the full set is a rare visitor indeed, either on record or in the concert hall.

It may be because Dvorak orchestrated only the first five songs himself. Yet the arrangement of the rest, made by Zemánek, is just as effective, drawing on the same antiphony of pious woodwind and mellow strings that Dvorak uses in his own treatment. The result is something of a surprise: instead of the chaste simplicity of the piano-accompanied songs, we get moods, colours and latent passion. But whether the 10 orchestral songs make a satisfying concert cycle is another question.

The performance certainly uncovered some problems. The music lies very low in the voice and the soloist, Birgit Finnilä, recognised for the richness of her deep mezzo, was always able to dominate the orchestra or make the words audible. (She sang in a German translation). Only when the scoring was light—as in the lovely setting of "The Lord is my Shepherd"—was her rap, dignified singing able to grip the attention as it should.

Neeme Järvi and the SNO could have helped her with less volume. But otherwise these were fully recommendable performances, both in the richness of the textures and a freedom of feeling that we do not usually hear from these songs in recitals. If only so many of them were not slow and pensive. The full set of 10, after all, seemed too much of a good thing. Next time, a selection might be better.

In Haydn's Symphony No 95 and Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, as in the Dvorak, the playing was forthright and confident. Like many another conductor from the Soviet Union, Järvi favours strong, persuasive rhythms and brass to the fore and broad strokes of interpretation. The Haydn lacked point and detail; but the Beethoven was more than reliable, its finale with its march making a rousing end to the evening.

New musical for

Stephanie Lawrence

Stephanie Lawrence will star as Marion in a new musical, *Sherwood*, which opens at the Dominion Theatre on July 1 for a nine-week season. Sherwood, based on the legend of Robin Hood, has music and lyrics by Bobby Crush and is directed by Clive Hicks-Jenkins. The show will open on May 15 at the Hippodrome, Bristol, for three weeks.

Duke Ellington

anniversary concert

This year's Duke Ellington anniversary concert takes place next Saturday, April 27, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, starting at 7.45 pm. The featured band is the Midnite Folies Orchestra, directed by Alan Coben and Keith Nicols. Additionally, singer Adelaide Hall, who recorded with the Ellington band in 1927, will also appear.



"Red and Yellow Macaw"—a Lear watercolour

he grew older. All those studies from plaster casts and the nude model were vital grounding and their absence circumscribed his art, for he was never happy with the human figure which only appears in his works as an indication of scale. That may, incidentally, account for why the human figure, distorted in every direction, is so central to his Nonsense imagery.

The second group is the studies he kept in his studio from which he produced his finished watercolours, oil paintings and Tyrants. These were not known until the 1920s and since have had a huge influence on the watercolour tradition in its more academic form. Looking at their technique, one thinks immediately of John Piper and John Ward. They breathe an assurance and

rapidity in the best controlled sense, a light underdrawing, in pencil, washes of colour almost sponged over it evoking sunshine and shade and mood, with the final structure overlaid in pen and sepia. These take us everywhere: to Greece, Crete, Turkey, Sinai, India, Albania, Lebanon, Egypt, Malta and Corsica.

But if one has to measure the man's achievement, it must be admitted that it is the Nonsense literature which earns him the highest place within the pantheon. A Book of Nonsense ran into 16 editions in his lifetime and has never been out of print since. Minus this, Lear can be accorded only as honourable if minor place within the long topographical tradition of the British watercolour school.

Alceste/Paris Opéra

Max Loppert

can turn to mere plainness when it sings over the most exact notes with smooth, beautiful tone; but Miss Verrett suggested smoothness and beauty even when she failed to produce it, and what she did produce—the meaning of the music—counted for much in compensation.

The performance created, as a whole, a worthy frame for its heroine. Pizzi's familiar "architectural" manner—formal stage structures in cool white stone, bright-coloured costumes—lent both shape and emotional potency to Gluck; he keeps the chorus sitting on his ornate steps without threatening the production with the usual dreaded Gluck-as-oratorio consequence. Though the conductor, Mikael Schonwandt, had not yet secured firm ensemble, his concern to keep the music fluent, warm, and emotionally telling made one tolerant of imperfections (and the native accent of chorus and orchestra was very much the right one). The American tenor, Barry McCauley, has the freedom and weight for Admetus, not yet sufficient maturity of style. Jean-Philippe Lafont (Priest), Mikael Melbye (Hercules) and Patrick Power (Evander) were all excellent.

Chorley was eloquent on the way Pauline Viardot managed, as Orpheus, to turn unevenness, harshness and feebleness of tone into "a rare felicity." In our day, Callas's late performances of *Jeux* and *Les églés* were described in similar fashion. Shirley Verrett, the Paris Alceste, has taken on the role late in her career, when vocal wear, above all on the all-important middle register, is plain to be seen. Yet it soon became clear that Miss Verrett has the stuff of a Gluck heroine in her. She was wonderful to look at; nobly dressed (by producer-designer Pier Luigi Pizzi) in a flowing royal blue robe, always dignified and tender in her bearing, the large eyes and the elegant frame drawn to a pitch of unemphatic expressiveness.

And in her singing Miss Verrett possessed the art of turning frailty to account. At the start of "Ah! malgré moi" the line had a hole in its centre, which afforded a catch-in-the-throat effect, and invited the same sensation in the audience.

Piano competition gets \$85,000 boost

Harveys of Bristol is to guarantee long-term sponsorship for the Leeds International Piano Competition, starting in 1987 with \$85,000.

In view of this, the competition will now be known as "The Harveys-Leeds International Piano Competition."

Harvey has sponsored the competition before—in 1978, 1981 and 1984.

Arts Guide

Exhibitions

VIENNA

Vienna 1870-1930: Dream and Reality: The greatest names of the Viennese fin-de-siècle—Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka, Adolf Loos, Josef Hoffmann—in a dazzling display of Jugendstil creative genius. The attempt to integrate the artistic achievements of this era with philosophical developments (notably Wittgenstein but also Freud) and political transformations (the emergence of municipal socialism on the ruins of Baroque splendour) is ambitious and only partly successful. The complex tension between automatic and censored reality on the one hand and the illusions or fantasies of individual artists on the other is high point of the show is a reconstruction of Hoffmann's room at the secession exhibition of 1902. Here, triumphantly restored, is Klimt's fifty-foot Beethoven triptych depicting humanity's progress through suffering to joy on the theme of the Ninth Symphony. Displayed exactly as intended, this alone is worth a special visit. Kunsthistorisches, ends October 6.

BRUSSELS

Palais des Beaux Arts: Felicien Rops—drawings, paintings and watercolours—a mixture of the macabre and erotic, skeletons and sex. Ends April 28.

ITALY

Rome, Galleria Nazionale d'arte Moderna: Aubrey Beardsley (1873-1908)

(In collaboration with the British Council, Beardsley is described by the organiser as "one of the most subtle exponents of European fin de siècle decadence"—but one is far more impressed by the sharp, directness of his style and the rare combination of irony and sensuality. In a career which lasted less than six years, he invented a brilliant series of new styles from the delicacy and intricate detail of the series of illustrations for *The Rape of the Lock* to those for Oscar Wilde's *Salome* (which made him notorious). Ends Apr 28.

NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam, Nieuwe Kerk (New Square). Two contrasting shows in the church by the Royal Palace. The first is the 28th World Press Photo Exhibition (ends May 2), the second a selection of satirical drawings by Hans-Georg Rausch (ends April 29).

WEST GERMANY

Berlin, Schloss Charlottenburg, Spanisch Platz. A new exhibition of Antoine Watteau to commemorate the 300th anniversary of his birth. The National Gallery of Art, Washington, the State Museum of France and the administration of Berlin's castles are sponsoring the show. The French rococo painter of ten used poor quality colours, therefore many of his paintings are in a bad condition and have not been displayed before. The exhibition in-

cludes 79 drawings and 148 paintings. Ends May 24.

Köln, Kunsthalle, Josef-Haubrich-Str. 1 "Ornamenta Ecclesiae." To underline the importance of the Romanesque churches, the Cologne Schüttenhofen museum has organised an exhibition of roughly 600 religious works ranging from 11th to 18th century including illuminated manuscripts and gold artifacts. Ends June 8.

Hannover, Sprengel Museum, Kurt-Schwitters-Platz. Works from 1885 to 1954 by the French artist Henri Laurens, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of his birth. Through his friend George Braque, Laurens discovered cubism in 1911 and became popular in France. In 1939 the German industrialist Bernard Sprengel, a Laurens enthusiast, gave his entire collection to Hannover. The works include 115 sculptures, collages, paintings and graphics. Ends April 28.

LONDON

The Saatchi Collection: Charles and Doris Saatchi have been collectors of contemporary art since 1970. The catalogue of their collection, *The Art Of Our Time*, is being published by volume, and a gallery site is being made to make it available to a wider public. The gallery is an astonishing converted warehouse at 86a Boundary Road, NW8, that offers more exhibition space for temporary shows than any other gallery in London, except perhaps the Tate. There are to be three or four shows a year, of a few artists at a time.

Those now being shown are Cy Twombly, Bruce Marden, Andy Warhol, Don Judd, and Richard Serra. The gallery is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am to 6 pm, or by appointment. (824-8398).

Cont. Engravings. The great names of the movement, Picasso, Braque, and also Delaunay, Villon, Marcoussis, are assembled under the banner of the exhibition, *Engravings*. Some of the works are powerful, where a human shape emerges from the puzzle. Others, on yellowing paper, seem touchingly small, intricate and introverted. Berggruen Gallery, 79 rue de l'Université, (222-0121). Closed Mon. Ends April 30.

PARIS

Océan Beaulieu. Some 500 oils, drawings and pastels given by Art and Suzanne Beaulieu show the symbolist painter's anguished isolation from the mainstream of impressionist painters while he follows the totem of his imagination and the inspiration of his dreams. Musée d'Art et d'Essai, 13 av. Président Wilson, (223-2633). Closed Mon. Ends April 30.

La Nouvelle Biennale de Paris assembles 120 painters of all nationalities. The poster for the biennale features the trans-avant-garde fun-fair of the arts spreading over 12,000 square metres in a vast hall of the former La Villette slaughter house, 211 Avenue Jean-Jaures, Metro Porte de Paris (780-2255) Ends May 31.

Shogun, weapons, armour, clothes, beautiful objects from Japan's golden age from the 12th to the 19th

century testifying to the art of living of the tokugawas. Espace Pierre Cardin, 1, Ave. Gabriel (266-1730-34-6178). Ends May 14.

NEW YORK

Metropolitan Museum: 30 objects from the period between the 1831 Crystal Palace Exhibition to the 1900 World Fair in Paris demonstrate the show's theme of Revivals and Explorations in European decorative arts. Ends Sept 5.

Museum of Modern Art: The first comprehensive retrospective of Henri Rousseau, including 60 works from as far away as France, show the masterful playfulness of the Parisian collector who brought together man and nature at their most benign and intriguing. Ends June 4.

Treasures from the New York Public Library: 300 works chosen from one of the five best library collections in the world may cover America better than Europe, but the inclusion of a Gutenberg Bible, the Tickhill Psalter and French bindings supplies missing American, such as examples of Melville's work, announcements of the discovery of New York, and one of the earliest globes. Ends May 24. (42nd & 8th Av).

WASHINGTON

National Gallery: Ancient Art of the American Woodland Indians includes 151 pieces covering 5,000 years of sculpture, ceramics, copper and shell objects of the native Americans who lived in what is now the eastern half of the U.S. Ends Aug 4.

National Gallery (West Side): 36 old master paintings from the Dulwich Picture Gallery are exhibited under the title *Collection for a King*, in celebration of the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Ends Sept 2.

CHICAGO

Art Institute: Though Edouard Manet made engravings primarily to reproduce and publicise his paintings, he developed a unique style as shown in the 27 engravings in this special exhibit of more than a third of his total output of 157 prints. Ends Sept 2.

TOKYO

Leonardo da Vinci Nature Studies: 50 drawings on loan from the Royal Library at Windsor Castle concluding a travelling exhibition in Europe, U.S., and Australia. The exhibition has been designed by Paul Williams, designer of the Rietveld at the Hayward Gallery, London. See the Museum of Art, Seibu Department Store, Ikebukuro. Ends May 12.

Japan's Hundred Years Ago: Photographs from Edward S. Morse Peabody Museum Collection. A superb documentation of pre-modern Japan capturing town and country life touched up with colour for more realistic impression. Tobacco and Salt Museum, Shibuya. The location, a bustling and fashionable area for the affluent young, exemplifies the remarkable changes Japan has undergone in the last century. Ends May 6.

Saleroom

Pride keeps its place

An oil painting by John Trivett Nettleship, "The Sleeping Prince," went for \$3,080 yesterday at Sotheby's morning sale of Victorian and modern British paintings and sculpture. The painting, dated 1888, had been estimated at \$1,000 to \$2,000. The morning half of the sale totalled \$157,267, with 15 per cent unsold.

The Ealing Gallery paid \$2,750 for Gustav Pope's "Mother and Child" while a private buyer bought William Duffield's "Still life with game" for \$2,640. Sir David Murray's "Country Stream with ducks and cattle," dated 1901, fetched \$2,530, from an anonymous buyer.

A private American buyer bought Edwin Frederick Holt's "Refreshment at the Bell Inn" for \$2,420. Charles Fairfax Murray's "Beata Beatrix," after the painting of the same name by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, sold for \$2,200, exceeding its estimate of between \$600 and \$1,000.

Sotheby's sale of Hebrew

books and works of art yesterday totalled \$93,662, with 4.9 per cent bought in. The top lot was a Passover Haggadah (Hebrew and English translation by Cecil Roth, illustrated by Arthur Szyk) illustrated in blue levant morocco and dated 1939, which fetched \$3,960 from a private buyer; while an 18th century scroll of Esther was sold for \$3,850, also to a private buyer. Sinai Antiques, the London dealer, paid \$2,970 for an 1880 Hanukkah lamp, possibly German.

The buyer was Mr Keith Barker, managing director of Videcom, a Heston-based computer company which Mrs Thatcher visited recently.

The picture fetched by far the highest price at the sale of Victorian and modern British paintings.

Annalena McAfee

Festival ballet to set up development trust

The London Festival Ballet is to set up a development trust which is to take care of all its fund-raising activities, including the Friends of Festival Ballet, sponsorship, corporate membership and special events. It will be an independent

body with its own board and management committee, and the first director will be Jo Ellen Gray, now LFB's development manager. A chairman will be appointed shortly. The purpose of the trust is to expand future development programmes.

FINANCIAL TIMES

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Thursday April 25 1985

Blaming it on Uncle Sam

M JACQUES DELORS, speaking on behalf of the entire European Community, has joined the fashion set by the International Monetary Fund in its annual report, and recently taken up by Mr Nigel Lawson, for publicly denouncing U.S. economic policies. These strictures are partly justified, but they are regrettable all the same. They suggest—or in the case of Mr Lawson quite explicitly express—an unjustified complacency about policy in other places, and therefore invite retaliation. Above all, it is hard to imagine a less helpful way to prepare for the summit meeting early next month. If this is to be an attempt to impose the whole burden of economic adjustment on the U.S. it will not only be unproductive, but could very well provoke a retreat into the isolationism and protectionism which the Americans, to their credit, are resisting so hard.

The charge against U.S. policy is so familiar that it hardly needs elaborating here: both the U.S. fiscal deficit, and the current account deficit which has resulted, are unsustainably large. To judge by the official figures (which are known to contain very large pessimistic errors, over-reporting world deficits to the tune of \$100bn), the outside world is now accumulating net claims against the U.S. economy at quite an impressive rate.

Imbalance

Sooner or later investors and banks will become sated with U.S. assets, and at that point there could be a very painful adjustment soon than to wait for the crisis. This is all familiar stuff, above all to the Americans themselves. They are beginning to address the problem in a more constitutionally cumbersome way. To judge by the current strength of the dollar they still have some time in hand.

What is forgotten in this analysis, however, is that imbalance is a problem embracing more than one country, and more than one set of policies. The U.S. current account deficit—whatever its true level may be—is matched by surpluses elsewhere, and mainly in a handful of countries represented at the summit.

Herr Kohl must put his foot down

TO JUDGE by this year's Community price review the new realist which erupted into EEC farm policy last year was an aberration, and agriculture ministers are back to their old tricks.

Agreement on 1985-86 farm prices is now almost a month overdue, just about every member state is seeking special concessions on the European Commission's original proposals, and it is quite possible the talks will drag on into the summer.

Things are not quite as bad as they were. For one thing, farm ministers are having to contend for the first time with the financial straitjacket agreed by their governments at which will begin to bite in 1986. Fontainebleau was a year ago. Yesterday's agreement between finance ministers on a 1985 budget leaves the farm ministers no room on paper for manoeuvre beyond the Commission's package.

For another, countries which have been in loggerheads on agriculture in the past—like Britain and France—are now in broad agreement on the key issue of the price-fixing: the need to curb the costs of support for cereals, thrust into the limelight after the 1984 reforms by the record grain harvest of last year.

Participant

The trouble this time is coming almost entirely from one minister, West Germany's Herr Ignatz Kiechle. He is refusing to countenance any cut in cereal prices to German farmers.

Bonn has always spoken with something of a forked tongue on the twin issues of budgetary discipline and the Common Agricultural Policy. Many were the times that Herr Kiechle's long-serving predecessor, Herr Josef Ertl, played a crucial role in free-riding farm price decisions despite all his finance minister colleague's efforts at restraint.

Nonetheless, the firmness of Herr Kiechle's stance has taken observers by surprise. His Government was a willing participant in last year's Fontainebleau agreement that the growth in farm spending should not exceed the rise in Community funds, yet on cereal prices it appears to be throwing caution to the winds.

In its extreme form, as in the IMF report, this one-sided analysis can lead to absurd conclusions, as when it is argued that U.S. policies are clearly wrong, but that Japanese policies, which are generating a just as big in terms of national product, are above any criticism. This is characteristic of the IMF's so often been accused, and which is quite explicit in this report. Nothing seems to have been learned in the 14 years since American demands for a symmetrical system of international disciplines were refused, and the dollar was floated.

Consequences

Here again it is the fashion to blame everything on the U.S. central bankers, who are always blappiest when lecturing their fiscal opposite numbers, are especially fond of this theme. However, the world's monetary authorities, still struggling with the consequences of the reckless expansion of international credit which they regarded so complacently in the 1970s, can hardly claim a monopoly of wisdom. Are they now confident of the meaning of the numbers they try to control in an increasingly deregulated world? How far do high rates reflect a risk premium in a world of junk bonds and rumours of institutional failure?

The list of relevant questions for the summit is all too long. Apart from those listed, European trade protection (especially farm protection), the subsidy wars which misallocate resources, the structural lags which impede growth everywhere, and prolonged unemployment could all figure on it. But the best result will only be possible if everyone concerned tries to tackle the issues for which they are responsible, rather than passing the buck.

Chancellor Kohl is enthusiastically canvassing the idea of more majority voting within the Community. Yet his farm minister—apparently with full backing from Herr Kohl—has hinted that he will veto the farm price package unless he gets what he wants.

Although it appears to be united on the farm price issue, the Bonn coalition seems more than ever like a collection of separate fiefdoms responding to contradictory political pressures—not the sort of environment in which hard choices can be unforgivably made.

The powerful farm lobby was particularly incensed by his agreement to a progressive dismantling of West Germany's positive monetary compensatory amounts (MCA's). This device previously shielded German farmers from some price decisions by raising farm prices as expressed in the national currency.

Precedent

The Commission's modest proposal for a 3.5 per cent reduction was itself a dilution of the 5 per cent automatic cut which should have been triggered by last year's cereal harvest. The alternatives to action on prices—such as quotas on cereals production—would be an administrative nightmare.

The only realistic option is for the Community to align its cereal price with the world market level—not least because U.S. moves to cut agricultural support could lead to a further fall in world prices.

Giving in to Germany on cereals would set a precedent for a whole host of unacceptable demands from other member states. Herr Kiechle himself has already asked for postponement of an automatic 1 per cent cut in milk quotas which should have taken place at the beginning of this month. The Commission at this week's farm council went further towards diluting the vital dairy reforms.

Meanwhile, the great debate which the Community is supposed to be undertaking on the future of the CAP has been all but forgotten. If sensible reform is to have any chance in the future, Herr Kohl needs to overrule his farm minister now.

IS EUROPE destined to become an also-ran in the world car business? And will the major manufacturers draw back behind a protectionist wall and survive on a diet of liberal and regular doses of state aid?

These questions are being asked today as the industry digests the news that Renault suffered a record £1bn loss in 1984. For the state-owned French group is out the only company to have sustained substantial losses at a time when the U.S. companies, and the Japanese seem to be moving much more smoothly towards the day, not too far distant, when there will be one world market for cars.

Europe's volume car producers are at a strategic crossroads. They face a period of great change. The adjustment period will be long, costly and painful for some. The debate about which direction the industry should take is gathering momentum.

The car makers' problems include:

● The two major U.S. groups, Ford and General Motors, with costs cut in their domestic markets, are now reaping large profits and have been strengthening links with their Japanese associates. Ford with Mazda and GM with Toyota, Isuzu and Suzuki. Chrysler, third-largest of the U.S. producers, announced earlier this month that it is to work much more closely with Mitsubishi and increase its shareholding in the Japanese group to 24 per cent.

There is thus a distinct danger that the European industry could find itself before long facing the combined might of the U.S. and Japan as a series of co-operative links—leading to exchanges of technology and products—develop between the American and Japanese industries.

● The Europeans, meanwhile, are pre-occupied with the immediate problems of excess capacity, intense competition, negligible profits and low growth in demand.

They may be able to solve the capacity problems, but there seems little they can do about demand which is rising at only about 1.5 per cent a year compared with 3 per cent in the early 1970s.

The Japanese are already selling about 10 per cent of the market—and are looking for assembly footholds within the European Community now they have sorted out production plans for Nissan, Honda and Toyota in Britain. Honda wants to build on its association with Austin Rover; it will not be long before Toyota decides its European strategy.

● GM and Ford may well opt to bring manufacturing "experts" into Europe from their plants in Brazil, Japan and even South Korea. In Britain, both companies already import half the cars they sell. Ford and Fiat have been taking advantage of Brazil's generous export subsidies to send cars to Europe for some time.

For traditional European volume car producers, produc-

PROFITS (LOSSES) OF EUROPE'S CAR PRODUCERS				
	PRE TAX UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED			
	1984	1983	1982	1981
VOLUME				
VW (Net profit & tax)	n/a	277m DM	158m DM	208m DM
RENAULT	(12,553m FF)	(1,571m FF)	(1,281m FF)	
PSA	n/a	(26,044m FF)	(28,964m FF)	(20,664m FF)
FIAT AUTO (operating profit)	n/a	1,596.36m	1,400.48m	
U.S. MULTINATIONALS				
FORD EUROPE	\$1,47m	\$282m	\$451m	
GENERAL MOTORS EUROPE	(\$251m)	(\$228m)	\$4.2m	
OTHERS				
DAIMLER-BENZ (net)	n/a	4,251.8m DM	4,231.8m DM	3,916.8m DM
BMW (Domestic)	n/a	912.6m DM	564.3m DM	395.3m DM
ALFA ROMEO (operating profit)	(1,97.8m)	(1,351m)	(1,108m)	(1,564m)
AUSTIN ROVER (operating profit)	(626m)	£3m	(£1,01m)	
SAAB CARS (operating profit)	879m SEK	821m SEK	2440m SEK	1425m SEK
VOLVO	n/a	3779m SEK	2440m SEK	1425m SEK

Source: Editorial Research

Philip Thompson

tion will be on a downward trend from now on," predicts Mr John Lawson, head of DRI Europe's automotive forecasting team.

DRI reckons that by 1991 an annual 800,000 "captive" imports will be flooding into Europe from lower-cost countries. In Europe labour gobbles up 25 per cent of the industry's revenue, so this process will help transform the financial position of those manufacturers in a position to take advantage of it.

Europe's six largest car producers are in a financial mess: they suffered combined losses equivalent to \$2.3bn over the

The adjustment period will be painful for some

past five years. Yet they must keep up with the Japanese and Americans in an investment race which will transform production methods and give customers cars that will be cheaper in real terms yet better-equipped than ever before.

"There will be one world market for the auto makers and customers will be pampered by all the manufacturers," predicts Dr Carl Hahn, chairman of Volkswagen.

Between 1981 and 1990 the European capital expenditure requirement will total \$90bn to \$100bn, but cash flow projections by Prof Krish Bhaskar's research unit at the University of East Anglia suggests there will be a deficit of \$30bn to \$35bn.

Stock markets and banks, which are taking an increasingly jaundiced view of the European motor industry, are unlikely to put up much of the money. In years gone by, governments would have stumped

up the cash—a great deal of the industry is already state-owned. Alfa Romeo, Austin Rover, Renault, Seat, Volvo Holland, are majority-owned while 40 per cent of Volkswagen is in government hands.

But times have changed and the debate about the industry's future has to start with the recognition that governments are no longer convinced that support for the industry offers value for money. The hard-nosed, "not a penny more" attitude which the UK government is taking towards Austin Rover is likely to be followed elsewhere in Europe.

Already, France's Socialist administration ousted M. Bernard Haeon from the presidency of Renault earlier this year to signal its intense displeasure with the group's advanced industrialised costs.

The Socialist Spanish government has also had enough and put its perennial loss-maker Seat up for sale with the preferred buyer being Volkswagen.

The old argument that an advanced industrialised country needs a healthy motor industry that stimulates so much other beneficial economic activity remains as valid as ever. The problem is that most state aid is designed to protect or create jobs. But the auto industry no longer provides the employment it once did and job losses are starting to accelerate.

"The new, automated production processes can reduce the direct labour content of a car by between 30 and 50 per cent," points out Prof Gerald Rhy, professor of motor industry economics at the University of Cardiff. "Quality improvements can eliminate whole sections of indirect labour used in the inspection processes. CAD/CAM can increase engineers' productivity by 30 per cent compared with older methods."

And Mr Dan Jones, who headed the UK team involved in the MIT "Future of the automobile" programme, suggests that job losses will come from capacity reductions as well as a reduction of labour hours towards Japanese levels.

"The U.S. industry reduced its capacity and employment while at the same time the consumer is protected by maximum feasible choice in the market place."

"During the next ten years thorough-going collaboration and co-operation could make both aims consistent and Europe could avoid the fate of the U.S. where three companies have long dominated the market, or Japan where Toyota and Nissan

themselves to a greater extent than in the past. Prof Rhy maintains: "There is still a chance that the European industry could rationalise in a way that its cost structure and capacity utilisation makes it internationally competitive while at the same time the consumer is protected by maximum feasible choice in the market place."

"Capacity reductions will take place in most of the companies and countries, particularly in France and to a lesser extent in West Germany, Belgium, Italy and Spain—not the UK because it has already been reduced substantially."

Mr Jones, senior research fellow at the science policy research unit, University of Sussex, adds that "despite the belief that European labour is difficult to shed for legal and political reasons, 150,000 jobs have gone in the UK since 1978, 130,000 in Italy and at least 55,000 in France."

This year Renault has a major job-reduction task to perform while Ford of Europe has admitted it intends to cut capacity and is close to making a decision on what its approach should be. Whatever the outcome, many more jobs will go.

To raise the cash for new products and processes, the European volume car producers will be forced to look increasingly for those market niches which allow a reasonable profit to be made—today's production equipment permits a great variety of variants from one car design concept. In turn this will increase the pressure on the specialist producers filling some of those niches—BMW, Mercedes, Saab and Volvo—establish themselves in Europe for some years with joint ventures and they can't be too happy with them. They will find

between them have a 65 per cent market share."

The multinationals have a distinct advantage if collaboration is the way to financial survival. They can co-operate within the entry of a single company with resulting benefits in decision-making, product development and getting maximum economies of scale. They can import components to Europe from the rest of the world but still on an in-house basis.

However, apart from Volkswagen, the European companies do not look convincing multinationals.

That is why Sig Viktorio Ghidella, chief executive of Fiat Auto, feels that the two U.S. groups pose a much bigger threat to the European producers than the Japanese. The Japanese have been trying to establish themselves in Europe for some years with joint ventures and they can't be too happy with them. They will find

It is possible to see a silver lining

It is possible, too, to see a silver lining. If Japanese levels of costs are to be achieved there could be a 500,000 reduction in the European vehicle industry workforce by 1993, says Prof Rhy. "But the immense wealth created by the industry could have a massive indirect effect on job creation in Europe."

Old customs die hard

Patrick Jenkin has been seeing red in Liverpool this week. But for once it has nothing to do with Councilor Derek Hatton and his militants. It was some red tape, discovered on a tour of the city's new freeport, that niggled the Environment Secretary.

Jenkin was very impressed by the way the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company had kept down the freeport's staff costs—just maoager Frank Rowbotham, a deputy and a secretary, to make it all work. Rowbotham has computerised everything, including all work on VAT which can be quite complicated at a freeport boundary.

But when Jenkin asked if the dock company's computer was linked to the Customs and Excise VAT computer at Southend, he learned that an electronic link had been refused on the grounds that the Customs men had not got the resources to develop suitable software.

The result is that Rowbotham and his staff have to print out their own data, write it down by hand on Customs and Excise

forms, and send them to Southend, where it is then keyed into the VAT computer. Guess which Government department was most opposed to the very idea of freeports? Yes, you've got it. But as Jenkin muttered angrily, it is not going to slow them down now they are a reality. "Something will be done," he vowed.

Liquid funds

Scotch whisky sales may generally be rather depressed, but in Stockholm at least whisky seems to have become a new diplomatic currency.

Diplomats from the Soviet embassy are under suspicion for having used tax-free bottles of Scotch to trade for stereos and videos from a dealer in one of the southern suburbs of the Swedish capital.

The police were tipped off by a passer-by, who saw the cartons of whisky bottles being off-loaded into a radio dealer's shop from a Volvo with diplomatic number-plates. The car was traced to the Soviet embassy.

The Scotch—"the real Mackenzie"—has been seized and the radio dealer has admitted to Stockholm police that he has taken whisky in part payment for goods on several earlier occasions from Soviet diplomats.

He bought the Scotch for around SKr 120 per bottle—about half the going price in the city. The sale of tax-free alcohol by embassy officials to bars and restaurants in the city is not unknown to the police. It is helped by punitive Swedish taxes on spirits and wine—especially by East bloc diplomats short of Western currency.

Men and Matters

One ambassador was even expelled during the 1970s for such offences, but the Swedish Foreign Ministry has yet to react to the latest allegations.

Relations with Moscow are touchy at the best of times, and the Minister is still preoccupied with trying to get an explanation out of the Soviet embassy for last week's hoarding of Swedish travellers by Russian military inspection officials in the Baltic Sea, where the boats were fishing in international waters.

Ray of hope

An American enthusiast who believes oil companies will soon be selling us solar energy by the square metre, as well as petrol by the litre, beamed his way into London the other day.

Dr Leonard Magrid names Atlantic Richfield, Shell, Socon, Mobil and BP-Sohio among a dozen large companies which believe they can market photovoltaics as a billion dollar business.

Now a consulting engineer with PA Technology in Princeton, Magrid once ran the photovoltaic solar energy research programme of the U.S. Department of Energy, and watched solar research expand from a \$2m budget in 1974 to \$200m when President Reagan came to office.

He left government after giving a passionate presentation to James Edwards, the dentist who became his new Energy Secretary in the early 1980s—only to have his budget slashed by two-thirds.

Magrid's mission now is to help companies surmount what he sees as the final hurdles before ribbons of silicon solar cells are streaming like tinplate from U.S. production lines.

The challenge is learning to use some novel and highly automated methods to make solar cells competitive. The administration have removed the tax advantages which once made solar energy seem closer.

Magrid flashes a watch (Japanese) which captures 100 times as much sunpower as it needs in a few seconds' exposure, but admits another decade may pass before a solar roof can compete even for someone living in the sunbelt.

Even then, the signs are that you will be back to the solar pump every few years. Sunbeams may be free but, it seems, they wear out the solar cells.

Man to watch

No enterprising employer could resist hidding for the man whose personality profile has just appeared in Executive Recruiter News in the U.S. "High potential for success in virtually anything," it says. "Extremely high need to win and staying power as a very quick minded and emotionally stable... afraid of nothing in dealing with others."

But the thrusting high-flyer won't be on the job market until 1988. He is the 74-year-old President Reagan.

When he sent the Soviet leaders a handwritten note of condolence on Chernenko's death, Executive Recruiter News promptly forwarded copies to two handwriting analysts. While their reports agree on his outstanding executive and sales abilities, however, they cast a chilling light on the human warmth of U.S. presidents in general.

One graphologist insists that Reagan's concern for his fellow humans is no better than average. Even so, says the other, he still likes people more than did his predecessors at the White House, including President Kennedy.

"JFK's signature alone shows an aversion to others..." By contrast the round, flowing hand of Reagan shows sociable characteristics."

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Observer

ECONOMIC VIEWPOINT

A sceptic on intervention

By Samuel Brittan

PROFITABILITY OF THE BANK'S INTERVENTION

	Excluding interest			Including interest		
	Cumulative intervention	Cumulative sterling capital	Profit	Cumulative intervention	Cumulative sterling capital	Profit
Intervention: Jan. 1976-Oct. 1976 inclusive						
Valued at exchange rate ruling at:						
End-Oct. 1976	-4,245	-3,728	-518	-4,339	-3,902	-437
End-Aug. 1982	-3,921	-3,728	-192	-7,778	-8,048	-270
End-Dec. 1982	-4,163	-3,728	-435	-8,536	-8,329	-207
Nov. 1976-Oct. 1977 inclusive						
Valued at exchange rate ruling at:						
End-Oct. 1977	6,479	6,866	-386	6,610	7,039	-429
End-Dec. 1982	7,269	6,866	593	14,289	13,655	634

Source: Bank of England Bulletin, Sept. 1983

EXCHANGE RATE policy is back in fashion. M. Jacques Delors proposed "exchange rate zones" when he was French Finance Minister. Although he avoids this precise expression in his new capacity as President of the EEC, he now gains a more respectful hearing for the underlying idea.

In the first few months of this year, not only has the Bundesbank intervened against the dollar, but it has been joined by the Bank of England (which was previously inhibited by the Chancellor from such action); even the U.S. authorities have put in a token appearance, whose effect was much amplified when Paul Volcker called for intervention, which in the event was largely left for other central banks to undertake.

There is a very sharp distinction which is not always made in the current discussions between the use of exchange rates as indicators to guide domestic monetary policy and intervention by central banks in the foreign exchange market.

The weight of evidence of the past decade strongly suggests that monetary policy will be more successful and less destabilising if government and central banks take exchange rates into account than if they try to follow purely domestic monetary rules. This does mean that a country which regards its exchange rate as "low" must pursue tighter policies than it otherwise would, and that a country with a "high" exchange rate should follow more expansionary policies.

How to balance domestic and exchange rate considerations in monetary policy, and how to secure benign rather than malign effects from the interests of different national authorities, are of course difficult and unresolved questions. But it is simply a cop-out to suppose that national authorities can dodge the domestic policies required, if they are serious about influencing exchange rates, by a series of clever market purchases and sales of foreign exchange.

It is, in any case, not possible to establish target zones, with any chance of their being either feasible or desirable, without some idea of what an appropriate or long-term market clearing exchange rate actually would be, and the intellectual basis for such assessment does

not exist. Nearly all attempts to estimate appropriate exchange rates are based on comparative movements of wholesale or export prices, or of labour costs per unit of output.

Apart from the weaknesses of the indices, there is the further problem of non-price competitiveness: delivery dates, service, technological lead, and so on. Conventional cost and price comparisons give an appropriate dollar rate of little above DM 2. But we have no idea how much, if at all, U.S. non-price competitiveness has improved in the last few years when the real dollar exchange rate has risen by more than 50 per cent.

The trade account is only the beginning of the problem. If returns are higher or investment politically safer, or in any other way more attractive in one country than another, then balance for the capital-attracting country will automatically require a current account deficit.

Nor are there known criteria for saying how much overseas inflow is too much. It may be morally dubious for the U.S. to become an increasing net debtor, while the main LDC countries are forced to achieve a near balance on current account. But if the return and security of investment in the U.S. is higher, capital will flow that way.

Nor is there any way of ruling out as illegitimate purchases of dollars or dollar securities made by shrewd or long-term investors for portfolio management purposes. A

desire to build up dollar assets is not something that central banks can cause to disappear by waving a magic wand. Nor is there much point in inveighing against high Japanese savings and low U.S. ones as the Morgan Guaranty World Financial Market does. These are facts of life and the job of the international capital and foreign exchange markets is to accommodate them, rather than lecture countries on their ingrained behaviour patterns.

The recent height of the dollar can be explained either in the Feldstein manner as a response to an inappropriate mix of U.S. domestic policies with budget deficits too high, and a consequent attraction of foreign savings to finance them. Alternatively it can be explained, as Herbert Giersch of Kiel does, in terms of the contrast between Eurodollar and the performance and prospects of the U.S. economy. The two rival diagnoses have radically different implications for the whereabouts of any target zone; but there is not the evidence to decide between them.

The cynical judgment is that the dollar is too high when its effects in siphoning off U.S. demand abroad and inflating the American industrial lobby exceed the prestige and counter-industrial advantages of a high dollar. If the U.S. authorities feel this way, the fundamental correctives are domestic, whether by reducing the budget deficit, commensurate faster growth of the U.S. money supply, or just possibly

persuading other central banks to relax themselves.

A U.S. import surcharge would be a two-edged sword. In terms of normal balance of payments arithmetic it should tend the dollar higher still. But when expectations and confidence are taken into account, it is just as likely that the dollar would crash as it would soar, but by unpredictable amounts. In return for these dubious benefits, there would be the serious risk of triggering off a world trade war, as did the Smoot-Hawley tariff of 1930.

The wiser advocates of exchange rate management, such as Lord Lever, emphasise that intervention must start from a position of realism, rather than some economic calculation of the true rate.

Yet there is no way of establishing a formal or informal idea of the correct rate. Suppose that a zone of DM 2.70 to DM 3.10 is established for the dollar and the dollar nears the bottom of the range. Do the central banks start buying dollars and cash having to sell them at a still lower rate; or do they shift the range downwards?

The instinctive reaction of the central bankers—as distinct from the central planners—is to have no firm view about the dollar, but to let them at it, but to be strongly opposed to "too rapid" a move in either direction. But this again is highly questionable. If the market eventually decides that the dollar is grossly overvalued, what is to be gained by losing taxpayers' money in buying up

M. JACQUES DELORS
EEC President

dollars expensively and prolonging the period of high U.S. current account deficits and all the associated problems?

The view of Mr Nigel Lawson, the British Chancellor, is that intervention is justified mainly against speculative froth. But how do you distinguish at the time between a speculative raid and a fundamental reappraisal—except to say that it is speculative if directed against sterling and a fundamental reappraisal if another currency is involved?

The main role of intervention is to reduce volatility, bearing in mind that it is the major month-to-month and quarter-to-quarter swings that worry business, rather than the minor day-to-day changes that occupy the headlines.

Ex post intervention can be assessed by some statistical indices of volatility. But these do not provide operational guidance or appropriate incentives in advance.

For all its imperfections, the one acceptable yardstick by which to judge intervention remains profitability. If the Bank of England thinks that there is a bear raid on sterling, it can iron out the sterling dip at a profit to itself. If it mistakes a lasting fall for a temporary weakness, it is likely to make a loss.

The Bank has in fact already published its evidence to the Working Group, established after the 1982 Summit, in which it argues predictably:

(a) that profitability is not the right test; but
(b) in any case its interven-

tions were profitable. Its arguments against the profitability yardstick mostly show that it is an imperfect one, not that there is a better one. For instance, there is a chart showing that a monopoly speculator (which the bank is not) will maximise its profits with less than complete smoothing.

A more serious difficulty is that when net intervention is not "closed out"—that is when the central bank is left with a lasting addition to, or depletion from, its foreign exchange reserves, the resulting profit or loss will vary as the exchange rate changes, long after the end of the period in question.

For instance, intervention in support of the pound prior to the IMF negotiations of 1976 appeared unprofitable at the time when sterling was sinking, profitable during the strong petro-dollar of the early 1980s, but unprofitable again by December 1982.

Intervention to keep the pound down before it was uncapped by Chancellor Healey in October 1977 seemed unprofitable at the time, but profitable by the end of 1982 when sterling had fallen and the dollar had risen.

These valuation changes are inconvenient, but surely similar to those faced by any portfolio manager, whose performance is judged not merely by the movement of the securities he has purchased in a particular year or quarter, but by the movement of those he has purchased in earlier periods.

In the central bank case, performance has to be judged not merely when the intervention is undertaken but in all subsequent periods, so long as there is an outstanding position. Like portfolio managers, central bankers can hardly be expected to perform well every time; the test of their intervention must be profitability over some long-term moving average.

The Bundesbank's foreign exchange profits are so large that they meet much of the Federal Government's deficit. This is less clearly so for other central banks.

Ideally, central bank governors' salaries and perks should be highly geared to intervention profits and losses. In default of this, accountability and transparency are prime requirements if central banks are to be allowed to intervene by sizable amounts.

Lombard

An offer not to be turned down

By David Marsh in Paris

"A SPACE force which blankets the planet requires no overseas bases. . . . It is a high-technology item, and quite expensive, but all the money is spent at home stimulating our own economy." Mr Maxwell Hunter of Lockheed Missiles and Space in a 1980 paper on space-laser weaponry.

"When I go to see companies in the U.S. I don't see small innovative entrepreneurs but huge machines financed out of the defence budget. The Star Wars programme will boost these people's expertise in crucial fields—optics, electronics, lasers—with important civil applications too. They will have a lead for the next 15 or 20 years"—chairman of one of France's leading military space companies, March 1985.

Despite the inconclusive outcome of this week's WEU meeting in Bonn, Europe is at last starting to understand that the U.S. strategic defence initiative offers opportunities as well as pitfalls for the Old Continent.

The key lies in realising that, out of all the diverse political and economic targets aimed at in U.S. space weapons research, the long-term goal of coming up with a credible defence against ballistic missiles may conceivably turn out to be one of the least significant.

Whether or not the programme leads to a space shield making "obsolete" (and here even U.S. experts blanch at the excessive optimism of President Reagan's term), it will certainly yield technological advances which engineers will be adapting for use in everything from cars to home entertainment over the next 20 years.

The view from the French scientific-military establishment is that the U.S. offer of European participation in the SDI programme—despite the initial brusqueness with which it was put forward—offers Europe a golden opportunity.

Climbing aboard in a properly coordinated way—the direction in which France is trying to steer the rest of Europe—offers Europeans three distinct chances:

● Insight into technological advances with potential civil applications in areas where

European companies might either be left out or be treated as "second class" partners of the Americans;

● Possibility of observation of—and some degree of control over—the pace of military-technology research which will have a key bearing on the future credibility of the British and French nuclear deterrents; and

● Possibility of checking U.S. claims over the parallel advances, actual, imagined and anticipated, of the Soviet Union in the particle beam weapons field.

More generally, a coordinated policy of SDI could boost overall European collaboration in fundamental research.

Of course, there are also potential drawbacks over SDI participation. Involvement in research will make it harder for European politicians to make disparaging references to the Maginot Line-like efficiency of a future space shield—even if such remarks might carry a lot of justification.

More importantly, endorsement of the value of Star Wars research risks damaging the credibility of the relatively minor French and British nuclear deterrents.

Europe too knows that achieving real insight into U.S. military research will not be easy. As just one example of lingering U.S. mistrust of the French, when American hunter-killer nuclear submarines pay exchange visits to Brest, French naval officers piped aboard are never allowed to see the nuclear reactor end of the boats, for fear of raising access to U.S. propulsion technology from which France was excluded in 1968.

In its response to the U.S. over the space station project, Europe has however already shown that it can join forces to improve the benefits of working with the Americans.

Star Wars offers a chance of furthering that spirit of togetherness. And, as a plus point, Europe for the first time since the Manhattan Project might have a chance of influencing—even indirectly—the weapons research that lies behind the U.S.-Soviet arms race.

*Quoted in "War in Space" by James Canon (Harper & Row).

European defence

From Professor F. Pirani

Sir.—No doubt Mr Davidson is right (April 22) to draw attention to the technological gap which will develop when "Star Wars" research gets into its stride in the U.S., although the prospective civilian technological spin-offs seem to be rather slim pickings for so great an expenditure.

It should, however, like to point to a quite different kind of spin-off from the "Star Wars" programme which may help to explain the clamour of protest against the programme which has arisen in Europe in the past few months. It is that "Star Wars" plus nuclear disarmament could be disastrously expensive for European NATO members. In arguing the case for not elaborate the point that "Star Wars" research is exceedingly unlikely to bear fruit, at least in any form remotely resembling that intended by President Reagan's programme. The "Star Wars" programme is engendering changes in American nuclear strategy, whose objectives were set out explicitly by Paul H. Nitze, Reagan's special adviser, in an article in the Los Angeles Times last month. In this article appears a crucial phrase for Europeans, namely the prospect of "an enhanced ability to deter war based on an increasing confidence in the defence of non-nuclear weapons." This should be read together with Mr Weinberger's remark in his last annual report to Congress that "our allies clearly need to continue to enlarge their defense efforts, and we have urged them to do so."

The point is that the opening up of "Star Wars" perspectives amounts to a clear admission of the closing of the U.S. nuclear umbrella over Western Europe. America's European allies have for years been getting defence on the cheap, and heavily dependent on the U.S., and heavily dependent on the U.S. and success at Geneva threatens the second. Finance Ministers who might be worried by the prospect of paying for an independent European high tech research programme ought to be completely paralysed by the prospect of paying for the conventional defence of Western Europe, at least with any defence posture remotely resembling the present one. Much more is needed than the tightening up of the ABM treaty which Mr Davidson suggests, and which anyhow seems directly contrary to the Pentagon's intentions.

The pretence of American nuclear deterrence is going to be withdrawn from Europe, and General Rogers' aggressive conventional posture is too expensive to be sustained. What is needed is a defensive conventional posture, well back

Letters to the Editor

from the East-West German border, and now would be the time to work it out. The West Germans wouldn't like it much, which might explain Chancellor Kohl's enthusiasm for "Star Wars," but Western Europe could well afford it, and the other advantages, military, political and economic, need no elaboration.

(Professor) F. A. E. Pirani,
22, Sidone Buildings,
Tombstone Street, WC2.

Hedging and ditching

From Mr J. Andrews

Sir.—This recent correspondence in respect of dollar hedging by pension fund managers brought forward a criticism of the practice by Mr Jacks of Cubie, Wood & Co (April 19) which cannot be endorsed.

He questions whether it is appropriate for pension funds to hedge their currency risks and whether fund managers are genuinely "hedging" portfolios. The answers he gives in support of his criticism have been arrived at on the basis of certain conclusions he reaches which are themselves questionable. Without recognising it, he does, however, draw brief attention to what is and should be the primary role of the pension fund and investment manager.

He says that "selling dollars forward" is really an investment decision. This surely is the crux of the matter. Ever since exchange controls were abolished, fund managers have increasingly looked overseas in order to provide a greater international spread of investment, but the currency in which those investments are traded must be as important as the choice of the investment made.

The relentless strength of the dollar over the past few years has been such that a fund manager would be failing in his duty if he had not given thought to the possibility of selling dollars forward up to 100 per cent of the dollar value of the U.S. securities held. This surely is prudence in order to protect the sterling value of the portfolio's dollar securities in the event of a reversal in the dollar's fortunes. Mr Jacks's suggestion that such action is really to make money from a falling dollar is totally erroneous as the sterling value of the dollar securities sold off must have declined in value by as much as the forward sale has increased in value. The

contract for these forward sales can extend for different periods of time, as Mr Jacks points out, they are typically for six months. The pension fund or investment manager must assess and appreciate the many pros and cons of maintaining and/or renewing a contract in the light of several factors which help form the decision he reaches but remains the manager and there is no substitute for thought.

It will also not have gone unnoticed by Mr Jacks that the UK stock market has generally been far more buoyant than Wall Street during the period of the dollar's strength. Now that the currency roles are perhaps reversing, a relative improvement in U.S. stock market values may be of little benefit in sterling terms without hedging the dollar content of portfolios.

Mr Jacks also refers to pension fund investment being, by its nature a long term strategy. I concur with this view but without taking the care and attention to the journey as it progresses, the eventual arrival may well prove a disappointment.

A pension fund manager is appointed to maximise the return of the funds under management and it must be left to his or her judgment as to the measures that are taken to fulfil this objective.

L. R. D. Andrews,
Brexit Dolphin & Co.,
5, Giltspur Street, ECI.

Subsidised tenants

From Mr E. Renne

Sir.—Samuel Brittan's article on "More homes to let" (April 15) is to be welcomed by both landlords and the considerably greater number of homeless persons, who at this time of year are getting especially raw deal by being thrown out of their bed and breakfast accommodation by hoteliers who can now let to summer tourists at night rates far in excess of any payments by the DHSS that are made to the homeless.

The "wets" in the Cabinet who are concerned that the Conservatives will be associated once more with Rachmanism should get their thinking straight. Rachmanism can only flourish within a system of controls and restrictions where there are considerable benefits to the landlord of forcing tenants to vacate their flats.

In a free market situation which would develop within a few years of the removal of controls, the bad landlord could

not exist. Rather he would be left with empty properties on his hands which he would be unable to let in the market, if it were not up to the standard required by tenants.

Mr Brittan argues that the effect on the PSBR would be minimal but without wishing to appear naive, I think it would be one of the political considerations on this matter.

The so called "fair rent" system is a travesty of its name and natural justice. It is in effect a system of robbery by an ever decreasing number of specially privileged tenants perpetrated on property owners and should not be tolerated in any just society. No individual landlord should be forced to subsidise another person at all, let alone for 50 years or more, as is the situation in countless cases.

The problems of homelessness, deterioration and depletion in the country's housing stock, can only be reversed by removal of the present controls and perhaps replacement by a system similar to that which currently exists for commercial property under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954. This would ensure that tenants had the right to remain in their homes provided they paid a market rent.

Edward Reeve,
12, Lupus Street, SW1.

Substitutes for imports

From Mr R. Ledingham

Sir.—It is argued that assistance for import substitution offers substantially more scope for increased British output than maintenance of export subsidies.

If we respond to foreign export subsidies by providing our own, we merely create a spurious element of world trade. To respond with assistance for import substitution has the merit of, at least, helping to retain a real level of world trade, not an artificially stimulated one.

R. A. Ledingham,
Rose View,
Mim Street,
Hertie, Essex.

Going through the roof

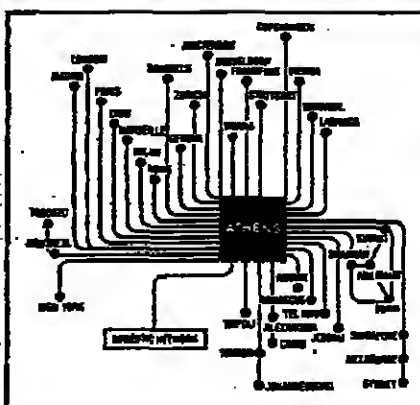
From Mr J. Shaw

Mr L. D. Marco's suggestion (April 19) that a company should be formed to market the talents of the highly paid chief executives of some of our largest companies leads me to assume that such persons are presumably so rewarded as to enable them to subscribe to private medical protection schemes the annual cost of which is apparently rising as fast as these persons' salaries.

J. Nell Shaw,
John Reynolds & Co
(Insurance),
21, Quay Street, Manchester.

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UK AEROSPACE GROUP SETS DATE FOR SHARE FLOTATION

Bae sells aircraft to China

BY MICHAEL DUNNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT, IN LONDON

BRITISH AEROSPACE has achieved a significant breakthrough in China with the sale of 10 Type 146 four-engine regional jet airliners, worth \$150m.

A memorandum of understanding for the deal has been signed in Peking between the China Aviation Supplies Corporation and British Aerospace, opening the way for full contract negotiations. It is intended that contracts will be signed early in the summer with deliveries starting in June 1986 and completion of the order in 1987.

Sir Austin Peare, chairman of British Aerospace, announced the order yesterday. He also revealed that next Monday the proposed extraordinary general meeting of British Aerospace would be held to give effect to the forthcoming share

issue. He said that the final prospectus for the share sale would be issued at the end of next week, together with details of the issue price. Applications for shares would open on May 6 and close on May 10.

The forthcoming issue involves the sale of the Government's remaining 48 per cent shareholding in British Aerospace, together with an issue of 50m of British Aerospace's own shares, jointly expected to raise around £800m (\$738m).

Sir Austin said that the Chinese order for the 146s was a breakthrough for the company and followed a lengthy demonstration tour throughout China last summer by a 146 airliner.

It had also been helped considerably by the British trade mission to

China earlier this year, headed by Lord Young, Minister without Portfolio. The mission had discussed extensively in Peking the possibility of sales of British Aerospace products in China.

The order for the 146s follows a recent spate of orders by China for Western commercial jet airliners. Only last week, Airbus Industrie, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, announced an order for three of its A-310 medium-range jet airliners. A few weeks earlier, McDonnell Douglas of the U.S. won an order from China for 25 short to medium-range MD-80 jet airliners, while earlier this year Short Brothers of Belfast won an order for eight Type 380 commuter and feeder liner aircraft.

At this stage, there is no formal indication of further orders beyond the 10 146s now involved, but British Aerospace officials were optimistic that additional contracts would be forthcoming.

The latest deal indicates that Chi-

na is re-equipping its ageing civil air fleet with a wide range of Western aircraft types. Past experience indicates that initial orders of this nature are almost invariably followed up later with further contracts, particularly specifying manufacture under licence in China of the aircraft involved. For example, in the recent McDonnell Douglas deal, it was specified that 24 out of the 25 aircraft ordered would be assembled at the Shanghai aircraft factories from parts manufactured by McDonnell Douglas at Long Beach, California.

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Regulators rescue savings group in California

By William Hall in New York

U.S. BANK regulators have been forced to come to the rescue of the Beverly Hills Savings and Loan Association, a fast growing Californian savings institution which last week announced that it expects to report a \$100m loss for 1984.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Board stepped in at the close of business on Tuesday after it found the group to be insolvent and in an unsafe and unsound condition.

In just three years its assets had more than tripled to \$2.93bn, which had been financed by a heavy reliance on expensive deposits provided by money brokers.

The Swiss financier, Mr Werner K. Ray, has a 9.9 per cent stake in the bank, which has blamed the expected 1984 loss on problem property deals by a previous management.

The decision effectively to nationalise the troubled savings bank and provide it with federal support is the latest indication of the troubled condition of several savings and loans institutions in California.

These institutions have much more flexible investment powers as they are chartered by the state. Federal bank regulators, who still have to insure their deposits, have become increasingly concerned about the growing number of abuses which appear to be surfacing in poorly managed Californian savings banks.

Financial Corporation of America, parent of American Savings, the biggest U.S. savings institution, recently reported a loss of over \$500m for 1984 and is being nursed back to health by a new management team and Washington regulators.

Several U.S. saving institutions have a negative net worth, and the recent bad publicity about the affairs of some of the weaker institutions has led to a definite flight to quality in California, say local commercial bankers. Their core deposits have been growing rapidly as nervous savers have been moving their funds into more conservatively managed institutions.

Federal regulators found that Beverly Hills bank were in disarray and it had put much of its money in speculative investments, which were poorly underwritten. The regulators have appointed a new board of directors and converted the state chartered institution to a federally chartered, mutually owned savings and loan.

Federal regulators denied that they had effectively nationalised the troubled savings bank. They said that their action was a temporary move until a buyer could be found for the group.

Under the deal, Ecu 27m will go to the group of French overseas territories, including New Caledonia and Mayotte, and a similar amount will be split between the Netherlands' six Caribbean islands possessions.

Like Lomé, it gives the countries aid, subsidised loans and special access to Community markets for certain exports.

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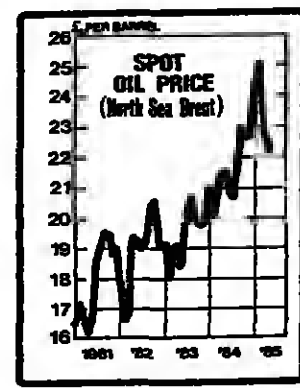
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THE LEX COLUMN

Sterling over a barrel

Having ridden the storm of last week's economic statistics without too much of a drenching, the dollar is now looking remarkably healthy, and there seems to be a feeling that pessimism about the U.S. economy has been slightly overdone. Buoyed up by Mr Volcker's implication that he is in no hurry to cut the discount rate, the dollar has gained 11 pence in two days. Sterling, meanwhile, is looking nervously over its shoulder at the oil price.



Oil prices

The second Thatcher Government has until recently been able to take a rather cavalier approach to short-term weakness in the price of oil, since whatever happened to dollar values, the sterling equivalent went nowhere but upwards. It may, however, be viewing the present signs of weakness in the oil price with less than equanimity.

The current softness in forward prices for North Sea crude has been quite enough to persuade the bears to round up the usual seasonal arguments for price weakness in the second quarter, even if the underlying trends look much the same today as two weeks ago. But the sterling price has already fallen far enough to make the revenue assumptions of the budget look more than usually short-lived. By the Treasury's exchange-rate sums, a sterling/dollar parity of \$1.25 would probably cut North Sea revenue by about £1.5bn, leaving the out-turn closer to the £12.5bn forecast last month. If the dollar price of oil were to weaken as well, the Treasury would need to perform some very creative arithmetic.

Naturally, any signs of change from Opec or the Soviet Union are bound to cause jitters. While Opec seems to have stayed within or about its 10m barrels a day (b/d) production ceiling in the first quarter, its members are scarcely content with this state of affairs; any breaking out of the current might enhance prices in the short term, since industry destocking would be delayed further, but an adjustment to 17m b/d could easily bring the familiar scrambling for share. Dutch auditors are, after all, only Dutch auditors.

But the Soviet Union is most unlikely to try and make up all in one go a theoretical loss in foreign ex-

change from lower first-quarter exports. A lower Soviet price and Iranian crude at some discount or another would scarcely encourage a producer such as Egypt to keep its price for equivalent blends. The Egyptian price cut is probably of no more significance than a weakness in May Brent, caused by some unsold cargoes left over at BNO's demise.

The UK majors can now expect some improvement in their downstream margins from a lower dollar, but refining is such a competitive business that this is most unlikely to offset the loss in translation of upstream profits - let alone of Shell Oil and Soho.

TSB Group

The compromise proposals of yesterday by the TSB Group appear almost certain to overcome the objections of the Scottish lobby in the House of Lords to the flotation of the TSB as a single unit. Much of the proposals add up to much by way of tangible concessions. The undertakings on management representation do little more than formalise present arrangements, while the agreement of the Group board not to plunder the balance sheets of the regional banks without their consent is largely of theoretical value. The TSB is already undercapitalised, and after the flotation, if anything, suffer an embarrassment of capital. There is not, in the circumstances, much likelihood of the centre calling on the regions for funds.

So it may be that the Scottish peers have recognised that their last-minute amendment to the TSB bill was, while inspired by the noblest of motives, a little short on logic. There is certainly no analogy

to be drawn between the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) takeover and the flotation of the TSB. In the RBS case, the argument was for preserving the bank's independence in order to protect Edinburgh's position as a national, as well as purely Scottish, financial centre.

There is no such argument over the TSB. Indeed, at a time when both RBS and Bank of Scotland are expanding south of the border, it would be perverse to insist on a separate identity for TSB Scotland and so deprive it of both capital and the opportunity for geographic expansion. The TSB has been strikingly successful in welding together 70 individual banks; it would be foolish to reverse the process at this stage.

John Laing

In what John Laing describes as a "tight" construction market, its 27 per cent increase in pre-tax profits in £30.3m for 1984 was due rather more to loss elimination overseas and to £2m extra of interest income than to much improvement in trading. Even though the outcome was no worse than expected, the market was not impressed: the shares lost 5p to close at 214p.

A geographical breakdown shows UK profits just inching up on higher turnover, while the overseas divisions have turned a £2.6m loss into a trading profit of £1.5m via better debt collection, slightly improved demand and a small nudge from exchange rates. All this has generated another £10m of cash to add to the £74m net surplus, but Laing seems to be in no hurry to go down the acquisition trail. It may just end up speeding more on property through its resuscitated development company.

What seems to be emerging from construction companies is that, while they recovered very rapidly from the UK recession, markets have already become very competitive again and growth is now tailing off. Any improvement this year will probably come from housebuilding, where higher interest rates have apparently made no dent on demand so far. Laing hopes to sell 2,000 houses, compared with its 1,500 in 1984. But it is hard to see how profits could do more than edge up, say, to £33m - which puts the shares on a prospective multiple of just under 6 and hardly undervalued at that.

Du Pont blames \$ for poor earnings

By Paul Taylor in New York

MR Edward Jefferson, the outspoken chairman of Du Pont, the U.S. chemicals group, yesterday warned that the strong dollar and a flood of imports were seriously undermining U.S. manufacturing industry. At the same time, he launched a fierce attack on "persistent fiscal laxity" by the U.S. Government which he blamed for the "currency mismanagement" and the resulting "worsening trade problem."

Mr Jefferson's remarks came as Du Pont reported sharply lower first-quarter operating earnings. The group also posted a big decline in net income, partly reflecting previously announced extraordinary charges totalling \$157m, or 66 cents a share, after tax, to cover the costs of an early retirement programme and Du Pont Canada's decision to divest of its 20 per cent stake in Petrosar.

The group said first-quarter operating earnings fell to \$221m, while net income, after the special charges, dropped to \$44m, or 26 cents a share, from \$373m, or 155 cents, in the year-ago period. Sales fell by 10.7 per cent to \$8,265m from \$9,255m a year earlier.

The extraordinary charges were \$125m, or 53 cents a share, for the company's early retirement scheme, which resulted in an unexpectedly high 11,000 workers, or about 9 per cent of the total workforce, seeking retirement - a move which Du Pont says will produce annual after-tax savings of about \$200m, or \$1.4 a share, starting next year - and the \$32m, or 13 cents a share, charge to cover the Canadian disposition.

Mr Jefferson said: "Excluding the unusual charges, first quarter results reflect continued weakness in the industrial sector of the economy. This contrasts with the robust economic growth experienced in early 1984 when Du Pont achieved strong earnings."

"There has been no growth in the industrial sector of the economy since mid-1984 due largely to the abnormal strength of the dollar and the resulting increasing flood of imports which are now affecting, directly or indirectly, almost every domestic manufacturing industry. We have seen the impact of the strong dollar on most of our business segments in the form of constrained volume plus price erosion in domestic and international markets."

Du Pont detailed the impact of these factors on its major business areas. After-tax operating income for its diversified industrial and specialty businesses fell by 40 per cent, earnings in the energy sector fell 20 per cent, while the company said weakness in the fibres, agricultural and industrial chemicals segments was "a major factor in the overall decline in earnings."

Mr Jefferson added: "Sharply rising imports and declining exports in the first quarter have impaired the industrial sector of the economy. The root of the worsening trade problem has been currency misalignment."

IG Metall in court action to prevent Opel hiving off unit

BY JOHN DAVIES IN FRANKFURT

IG METALL, the 2.3m strong West German metalworkers' union, is embarking on court action to try to prevent Opel, the car maker owned by General Motors of the U.S., hiving off its data processing operations, complete with 600 workers, to Electronic Data Systems (EDS).

EDS, a Dallas-based company, was bought by General Motors (GM) last year for \$2.5bn as part of a broadening out into information technology and related businesses.

Despite rumblings from some employees, GM has been busy integrating the motor vehicle group's wide-ranging electronic data operations in the U.S. and elsewhere into a network under the EDS umbrella. An EDS subsidiary has been formed in Germany.

After much soul-searching, IG

Metall claims that GM is not just harmlessly rebranding its corporate structure but is going up to control key operations worldwide through computers. It also claims that EDS is anti-union and that splitting off some Opel employees into a "Texas oasis" in Germany would undermine their wages and conditions of work.

IG Metall has proposed that Opel simply give EDS a contract to look after its data processing. All employees and operations - ranging from personnel management to computer-aided design - would remain firmly anchored within Opel.

But the union says Opel insists on hiving off operations and has given workers until April 30 to transfer to EDS or face an uncertain career.

Although it recognises it is entering new terrain, IG Metall will now back court action, arguing that Opel cannot under German company law abdicate its responsibility to manage its operations. It will also argue that Opel is breaking the spirit of the law which allows workers a say in company supervision and that transfer of electronic data abroad could infringe German data protection laws.

There is one consolation. Although EDS has frowned on its workers elsewhere with an unbecomingly casual look, IG Metall says German employees have been assured they will not have to change their appearance - provided they are not in contact with outside clients.

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SECTION II - INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES

FINANCIAL TIMES

Thursday April 25 1985

KIVETON PARK STEEL

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for Nabisco Brands

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

NABISCO Brands, the major U.S. foods group, yesterday reported flat first-quarter net earnings of \$56.5m against \$56.5m a year earlier.

On a per share basis, earnings rose 10 per cent from 88 cents to 97 cents, on lower shares outstanding. Operating pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to \$114.2m, but a \$6m gain from the sale of the Canadian Chase & Sanborn trademarks boosted the final net figure in the 1984 quarter.

Sales in the latest quarter fell from \$1.44bn to \$1.35bn, reflecting the divestiture of Van Nette, a Dutch subsidiary, and the impact of the strength of the dollar on foreign sales, which were "sharply lower."

However, international earnings showed good gains, led by advances in the UK after rationalisation and modernisation programmes. Earnings were lower in Continental Europe, while operating profits in Latin America registered "good improvement."

In the U.S., Nabisco reports "excellent gains" from sales of biscuit products, with healthy volume growth for many key brands. Benefits came from the completion of the nationwide distribution of Almo, Home Cookies in late 1984, and Chewy Chips Ahoy Cookies in the first quarter of 1985, and strong marketing support for Ritz and other crackers.

U.S. confectionery and snack products posted slightly higher earnings on lower sales in the first quarter. The national introduction of Bonkers Fruit Candy was completed in the quarter, and Planters Nuts are being aggressively marketed, the company said.

Grocery products reported a good increase in earnings on sales comparable to year-earlier levels. Chicago-based Bestrice Companies, which also has significant non-food operations following last year's acquisition of the diversified Esmark group, saw net profits slide to almost break even in the final quarter of the year ended February.

Operating earnings emerged at only \$2m, against \$7m a year earlier. However, a \$17m gain on disposals, compared with \$5m last time, took final net earnings to \$179m or \$1.90 per share.

This left full-year earnings up 11 per cent at \$479m or \$5.06 a share, against \$433m or \$4.23. Sales jumped from \$9.33bn to \$12.6bn in the year, and from \$2.2bn to \$3.4bn in the quarter, reflecting the Esmark acquisition.

The company blamed higher marketing costs and the absence of divested operations for the setback in the final three months.

In contrast earnings were up at Sara Lee, the Chicago-based confectionery and cakes group. Net profits in the third quarter jumped from \$43.3m or 75 cents a share to \$48m or 84 cents, taking nine-month earnings to \$146.1m or \$2.54 a share from \$130.9m or \$2.25.

Sales rose from \$1.68bn to \$1.95bn in the third quarter.

Net income at Durr & Kraft, maker of Duracell batteries and Tupperware as well as processed cheese and dairy products, slipped \$7m to \$100.8m in the first quarter on sales down 2.3 per cent at \$2.34bn. Because of share purchases earnings per share were ahead at \$2.09, against \$1.97 a year earlier.

Mitel stages strong revival

By Our Toronto Correspondent

MITEL, the Canadian telecommunications equipment maker, edged back to profitability in the three months to February 22, with a net income of \$84,000 (\$47,400), compared with a C\$25.2m loss a year earlier.

After preferred share dividend payments, the loss per share was cut from 66 cents to 2 cents.

Mitel suffered a loss of C\$32.1m, or 98 cents a share, for the fiscal year to February 22, almost unchanged from the C\$32.4m, or 85 cents a share, loss in 1984.

Although a seasonal decline in sales is likely to produce another loss in the current quarter, the company pointed to an improving trend in several facets of its operations, which is expected to continue later this year.

Revenues advanced from C\$71.6m in the first quarter of fiscal 1985 to C\$107.5m in the latest three months. Inventories have fallen by 20 per cent to C\$134.7m.

Recent losses have stemmed mainly from the high cost of developing Mitel's new SX-2000 voice and data switching system.

Western Union shows deficit

By Our New York Staff

WESTERN UNION, the U.S. telecommunications group, which ran into serious liquidity problems at the end of 1984 when a \$100m bank credit line was cancelled, has registered a \$15.3m first-quarter loss. But it says its cash picture had improved markedly since the end of last year.

The loss compares with net income of \$14.1m in the same period last year - which includes a tax credit of \$11.6m - and losses of \$71.7m in the second half of 1984.

Pickens plans attack on Unocal defence strategy

BY WILLIAM HALL IN NEW YORK

MR T. BOONE Pickens, the Texas oilman pursuing Unocal, the West Coast U.S. oil company, returned to the attack yesterday and said he would try and stop Unocal's bid to buy back almost a third of its equity for a \$3.6bn package of debt securities.

Mr Pickens said that the exchange offer, which excludes his 13.6 per cent stake, is illegal and that he was seeking to have the offer enjoined. He also moved quickly to correct the confusion which had arisen over remarks he made in Los Angeles on Tuesday, where he seemed to be suggesting that Unocal shareholders should accept the \$72 per share being offered by the company for 50m of the company's 173.9m outstanding shares.

Wall Street was puzzled by these remarks since it appeared to mean that the likelihood of his \$54 per share bid proceeding was reduced. In early trading yesterday Unocal shares fell \$1 1/2 to \$47 1/2 in very heavy trading. Many leading oil analysts have been encouraging their clients to sell their Unocal shares in the market rather than wait for the result of the bitter takeover battle being waged between Mr Pickens and Mr Fred Hartley, Unocal's combative chairman.

Mr Pickens issued a statement from his Amarillo, Texas, headquarters saying that Tuesday's wire reports did not fully set forth his position.

He indicated that pending a court ruling on the validity of the offer, Unocal shareholders might wish to tender their shares to Unocal in order to protect the value of their investments in the event that Unocal purchased shares.

He again urged Unocal shareholders to vote for an adjournment of next Monday's annual meeting of Unocal. Because of the elaborate takeover defences constructed by Unocal, next week's meeting is very important for Mr Pickens. He would like it delayed for two months while he builds up pressure on Unocal's embattled board. If it goes ahead he will find it difficult to maintain the momentum of his attack.

Unocal also released first-quarter results on Tuesday showing a marginal \$600,000 increase in net income to \$180.7m. Higher profits from its important geothermal operations and foreign oil and gas operations were offset by lower domestic profits in oil and gas operations. The company earned \$1.04 per share in the first three months of 1985.

Loss rises at Domtex as imports take toll

By Bernard Simon in Toronto

DOMINION TEXTILE, Canada's largest textiles manufacturer, suffered increased losses of C\$4.7m (U.S.\$3.6m) or 37 cents a share in the three months to March 31. The company's losses in the first nine months of its financial year totalled C\$6.7m or 61 cents a share, compared with a profit of C\$15.2m, or C\$1.94 a share, in the nine months to March 1984.

Sales fell to C\$167.7m in the latest quarter from C\$208.7m a year earlier.

Mr Thomas Bell, group president, said that heavy clothing and textile imports in the U.S. and Canada had continued during the early part of this year, making serious inroads into apparel fabrics and sales yarn markets. He said that an "significant" upturn in the company's North American sales can be expected during 1985.

Mr Bell said the results were buoyed by the improved performance of Domtex's foreign subsidiaries, which include operations in Britain, West Germany, France and Hong Kong.

Canadian clothing and textile manufacturers have asked the Government to tighten bilateral trade agreements with exporters in the Far East and Latin America. According to Mr Bell, a "more orderly" inflow of imports is "essential if any degree of market stability is to be achieved."

Joint venture for DSM

AMSTERDAM - DSM, the Dutch state-owned chemical company, is in talks with Toyo Soda Manufacturing of Japan for the establishment of a 50-50 joint venture to produce and market in Europe aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener.

AP-DJ

Roche to pay compensation

BY TONY JACKSON, CHEMICALS CORRESPONDENT, IN LONDON

ROCHE, the Swiss-based pharmaceuticals company, is to pay an undisclosed sum in compensation to the family of a 21-year old Welsh student who died last year after taking part in trials of a new tranquilliser. Roche said that the payment was on humanitarian grounds, and represented no admission of liability.

Philip Jones, a medical student, died in July 1984 after taking part as a healthy volunteer in trials of Midazolam, an injectable anaesthetic in use in the UK, Switzerland and West Germany. The cause of death was aplastic anaemia, a rare condition which attacks the bone marrow. Various drugs, including antibiotics, have been implicated in individual cases of the disease in the past.

An inquest jury returned an open verdict on the death yesterday, and Roche announced immediately that it would pay compensation. The company said "we are very sorry indeed about the death of Mr Jones. This is the only case of aplastic anaemia which has been reported with Midazolam during six years of investigation and usage. Some 2m people have received the drug in that time. We believe therefore that it is most unlikely that the drug played any part in Mr Jones's death."

Midazolam is an injectable anaesthetic used as a sedative before and during minor operations. Under the name of Dormicum, it has been on the Swiss market since 1982, and has been used in the UK under the Hypnovel name since 1983.

The drug is a short-acting benzodiazepine, related to such common tranquillisers as Librium and Valium, both also produced by Roche. It was launched in New Zealand in 1983 and in West Germany in 1984.

It is most unlikely that the drug played any part in Mr Jones's death.

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Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland for the Bonds to be admitted to the Official List subject to the issue of temporary global certificates. Interest on the Bonds is payable annually in arrears, the first such payment being made on 29th May, 1986.

Listing particulars relating to Inter-American Development Bank and the Bonds are available in the Extra Statistical Service. Copies of the Extra Card relating to the Bonds comprising the listing particulars required by The Stock Exchange Listing Regulations 1984, of the Bank's annual accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1984 and the Extra Card relating to the Bank dated 12th April, 1985 may be obtained during usual business hours up to and including 29th April, 1985 from the Company Announcements Office of The Stock Exchange and up to and including 9th May, 1985 from:-

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.,
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INTL. COMPANIES & FINANCE

Call for flexible powers in HK banking regulation

BY DAVID DODWELL IN HONG KONG

MR ROBERT FELL, Hong Kong's Banking Commissioner, yesterday called for wider discretion and more flexible regulatory powers as part of major banking reforms likely to be enacted before the end of this year.

Addressing the Hong Kong Deposit-Takers' Association in public after two months of consultation with bankers behind closed doors, Mr Fell insisted that the diverse activities of the territory's 140 banks and 350 deposit-taking companies made it essential for the commission to impose separate requirements for such things as capital adequacy, comfort letters and liquidity ratios.

"I do not see how an average set of requirements fits the very varied profile of business we experience in Hong Kong,"

he said. "Ability to meet changing needs will at the end of the day need some discretion."

While retreating from any suggestion that Hong Kong-based banks should in future reveal their secret inner reserves, Mr Fell insisted that they would in future be expected to treat inner reserves in a uniform way, and suggested that the trends of inner reserves "must be made clearer."

Pressure on margins limits rise at AGC

By Lachlan Drummond in Sydney

AUSTRALIAN Guarantee Corporation, the country's biggest finance company, saw earnings growth restrained to a 3.4 per cent rise to A\$51.75m (US\$33.6m) for the six months to March as a result of pressure on margins in an increasingly competitive financial market.

In a market relatively flush with funds but with no dramatic increase in demand, competition for business has been fierce, with the result that AGC's return on average net finance "outstandings" fell from just under 2 per cent to around 1.8 per cent.

Earnings growth came only because of the increase in outstandings from A\$5.14bn to A\$5.52bn year-on-year, a rate of growth that slowed to 4 per cent from September to March.

The first-half profit for AGC, which is 76 per cent owned by Westpac Banking Corporation, also reflected a A\$2.1m reduction in returns from its insurance subsidiary and the fact that a larger than normal proportion of earnings will fall in the second half because of a concentration of income-producing loan settlements in the September period.

The cut in margins came almost exclusively from lower lending rates, which fell to a greater degree than did borrowing rates. Overall gross income for AGC fell from A\$59.2m to A\$62.2m, while interest costs were A\$28m higher at A\$33.3m.

Pre-tax profits were actually lower at A\$55.9m against A\$59.6m, although this reflected a shift to lending via preference shares, which produced a lower gross return than interest but, as the lower tax charge of A\$32.9m against A\$39.3m suggests, provide a similar net return.

After deducting preference dividends of A\$6.73m to Westpac, profits per share, on capital increased by a one-for-ten scrip issue, were 16.8 cents against an audited 17.8 cents from which an unchanged 5.5 cents a share dividend will be paid on the increased capital.

Earnings setback for Allied Mills

By Our Sydney Correspondent

ALLIED MILLS, the Australian bread and margarine group at the centre of a multi-cornered takeover tussle until earlier this month, has reported a 35 per cent slide in net earnings for the six months to February, its worst half-year return for four years.

The drop in profits from A\$7.23m (US\$4.7m) to A\$4.72m leaves the group with an uphill struggle to achieve the full-year forecast of A\$20.5m produced in the heat of the takeover battle and which in any case represents a 10 per cent decline from the previous full-year total.

Directors have attributed the collapse in earnings, which before tax were halved to A\$10.1m, almost entirely to a price war among the three competitors in the Australian margarine market, where Allied had held a 48 per cent share. Margins had now been substantially restored and market share had improved, it said.

Its bread operations substantially reduced losses and an increase in the Government-controlled bread price in Sydney is expected to help in the second half.

In new venture in the Californian margarine market increased its volume in the half-year but losses continued and were aggravated by translation into weaker Australian dollars. This investment is under review.

Sales improved by 8.8 per cent overall to A\$34.6m while profits were struck after A\$3.3m increase in interest charges to A\$1.9m.

Allied is now 36 per cent owned by Arnotts, the dominant Australian biscuit maker, which boosted its holding from 15 per cent in a defensive takeover offer designed to prevent Allied, which owns 20 per cent of Arnotts, falling to a rival bidder, Industrial Equity (IEL).

Alfa Romeo seeks joint venture partner in Japan

BY JOHN GRIFFITHS

ALFA ROMEO, the Italian state-owned car producer, is seeking a joint venture partner to establish an import network in Japan, where it hopes eventually to sell 6,000 to 7,000 cars a year.

Alfa officials, during the unrelenting in Milan this week of the company's new 75 sports saloon, said firm negotiations had yet to start and declined to name any potential partners involved. But they indicated that it was intended to use Japan as a base to seek sales throughout the Far East region.

At the same time, they made clear that continuing collaboration with Nissan, with which Alfa jointly produces a small hatchback, the Arna, will remain an important element in Alfa's efforts to increase sales and restore profitability after 11 consecutive years of losses, which last year reached L\$7.8bn (\$49.3m).

The current Arna, which uses Alfa mechanical components in Nissan's Cherry bodysheet, is to be replaced, at low cost, in about 18 months by a model which will still use a Nissan-supplied floorpan and other components but with body panels which will give the Alfa car its own distinctive shape.

taking companies. The proposed new ordinance should go before the Legislative Council in autumn.

The Hong Kong Government announced yesterday that Mr David Nendick, deputy chief of the banking department of the Bank of England, will be seconded to Hong Kong in September to become the territory's new Secretary for Monetary Affairs. He will replace Mr Douglas Blye, who has held the post for the past nine years, and plans to retire at the age of 61 in April next year.

Mr Nendick will return to the Bank of England in three years. Working with him as the new deputy secretary will be Mr Joseph Yam Chi-Kwong. He replaces Mr Tony Latter, who has just returned to the Bank of England after a three-year secondment.

The collaboration is being continued despite the fact that output of the Arna is down to about 25,000 units a year, compared with the 60,000 originally envisaged. Alfa officials say that without the Arna helping to fill out still-under-used capacity at the company's southern Pomigliano plant, the other model built at the plant, the 33, could not continue to be produced profitably.

About 100,000 of the 33 models were built last year, and Alfa hopes that the eventual Arna replacement will provide enough sales outside Italy to take up some at least of the 40,000 units a year spare capacity at Pomigliano.

Alfa expects to make another sizeable loss this year—though less than that of 1984—and does not expect any substantial improvement until next year when both its also recently launched 60 saloon and the new 75 model will be fully available.

The company hopes to reach peak sales of 80,000 units a year of the 75 model after it goes on sale later this year. It has engine capacities ranging between 1.6 and 2.5 litres and is to have its sporting image strongly promoted.

U.S. \$30,000,000

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the terms of the Purchase Agency Agreement, Alcoa of Australia Limited has purchased in bonds during the twelve month period ending 15th April 1985 in satisfaction of its Purchase Fund obligations. The principal amount outstanding at the end of such period was U.S. \$27,019,000.

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited
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RORENTO

ANNUAL REPORT

The Rorento annual report 1984/85 is now available, an authoritative commentary on the worldwide investment climate from a division of Robeco, Europe's largest investment group. The report explains the strategy behind the actively managed portfolio of fixed interest securities now totalling £1.0 billion, lists all holdings and gives full balance sheet details. Send off for your copy now.

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RORENTO

NOTICE OF PREPAYMENT

The Bank of Tokyo, Ltd.

(Incorporated with limited liability in Japan)

U.S. \$30,000,000 Callable Negotiable Floating Rate Dollar Certificates of Deposit due 23rd June, 1986 (Series RP)

In accordance with the provisions of the Certificates, notice is hereby given that The Bank of Tokyo, Ltd. ("The Bank") will prepay the principal amount on the next Interest Payment Date, 21st June, 1985, together with the interest accrued to that date. Payment will be made against presentation and surrender of the Certificates at the Bank's London Office at 20/24 Moorgate, London EC2R 6DH. 25th April, 1985.

1983/84: Chemicals Make Degussa's Year

A profitable year

Fiscal 1983/84 was a profitable year for Degussa, with favourable results in many areas. Business opportunities continued to grow in all three corporate sectors: Metals, Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals.

Sales DM 11 billion

Despite the decline in precious metals prices, Group sales again rose slightly, reaching DM 11.1 billion. This gain resulted primarily from the good results achieved in Degussa's Chemicals Sector. Chemical sales rose by 18.9% for the Group and 19.4% for the parent company. Group sales in the Metals Sector declined by 7.4% and rose by 6.6% in Pharmaceuticals.

Net income up again

The previous year's growth in profits continued its upward trend: Group net income increased by more than DM 20 million to DM 110.1 million. A total of DM 20 million was allocated to the free reserves (compared with DM 30 million the previous year), leaving profit available for dividends of DM 50.5 million (up from DM 44.6 million the prior year). A dividend of DM 9.50 per DM 50 share of issued capital stock was declared, compared with DM 9 per share the previous year.

Subsidiaries performed well

Major domestic and foreign subsidiaries were successful during the year. Degussa Antwerpen N.V. showed especially good results, surpassing the previous year's excellent sales.

Increased investments

The Group's capital investments amounted to DM 286.7 million—up from DM 263.6 million. The emphasis, as in the previous year, was on domestic operations. DM 107.7

million were invested in financial assets. In addition to capital increases and share acquisitions in affiliated companies, Degussa AG acquired the outstanding shares of Asta-Werke AG and a majority holding in United Silica Industrial Ltd., a manufacturer of precipitated silica located in Taipei, Taiwan.

Continued favourable outlook

Positive trends seen in Degussa's major markets have continued into the current fiscal year. Exports as well as prices for raw materials and energy resources will play an important role in business developments during the coming year.

Consolidated Balance Sheets as of 30th September 1984

ASSETS	DM million	LIABILITIES	DM million
Property, plant and equipment, and intangibles	1,016	Issued capital stock	284
Investments in affiliated companies	211	Free reserves	549
Other investment and long-term loans	108	Outside investors' minority interest in associated entities	1
Total fixed assets	1,335	Special reserves	105
Goodwill on consolidation	4	Allowance for bad debts	50
Inventories	1,154	Reserves	1,118
Cash and receivables	1,638	Long-term liabilities	730
Total current assets	2,792	Current liabilities	1,243
Total	4,131	Profit available for dividend	51
		Total	4,131

Excerpts from the Consolidated Statements of Income

	DM million
Sales	11,122
Cost of material and supplies	8,416
Wages, salaries, benefits	1,344
Depreciation	330
Taxes on income and property	149
Net income	110

For a copy of our 1983/84 Annual Review in English, please write to: Degussa AG, Abt. Öffentlichkeitsarbeit, P.O. Box 110533, D-6000 Frankfurt 11

Degussa Activities in Brief

- Metals:**
 - Precious Metals Refining & Refining
 - Dental
 - Technical Metal Products
 - Smelting Techniques and Derivatives
 - Primary Production
- Chemicals:**
 - Industrial and Fine Chemicals
 - Inorganic Chemical Products
 - Organic Chemicals
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - "Hormonal" and "Anti" preparations for human medicine

Degussa Group (consolidated): Degussa AG and 17 domestic and 36 foreign companies with 22,500 employees. Shareholders: 32,000. Production units in Germany: 16 (parent company). Production units of subsidiaries: in 20 countries.

Degussa



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INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND FINANCE

ENI deficit plummets to L88bn

BY JAMES BUXTON IN ROME

ENI, the Italian state energy company, yesterday announced a dramatic reduction in its deficit after three years of heavy losses.

Professor Franco Reviglio, chairman, said ENI had lost only L88bn (\$45bn) in 1984, compared with a 1983 loss which ENI now puts at L1,449bn.

Operating profit was L2,788bn, compared with an operating profit of L834bn in 1983. Sales were L45,348bn, an increase of 18.4 per cent.

ENI, which includes the oil and gas company AGIP as well as a range of interests in fields including chemicals, engineering and mining, attributes its turnaround to better performance by its crisis-ridden divisions (notably chemicals),

better financial management and improved efficiency.

Prof. Reviglio, a former finance minister who arrived at ENI just over two years ago to clear up the problems created by several years of mismanagement and questionable financial operations, repeated several times yesterday that "ENI has begun once again to create wealth."

ENI's biggest single division, which had sales of L34,736bn (up 17 per cent on 1983), saw profits rise from L736bn mainly to its ever lucrative natural gas operations and to petroleum activities overseas.

But results from the supply of petroleum to the Italian market showed a deterioration, ENI said. The sharply rising cost of

crude oil imports as measured in Italian lire, falling domestic demand and the high cost of refining in Italy resulted in ENI losing about L1,000bn on supplying 14.3m tonnes of crude to the Italian market.

This was despite the fact that ENI diversified its sources of crude and bought heavily on the spot market, instead of buying under disadvantageous long-term contracts.

Prof. Reviglio pointed proudly to the sharp fall in losses by ENI's chemical division, headed by Enichem. Losses fell from L704bn to L150bn in 1984 on sales of L6,192bn. Part of the improvement was due to increased demand and part to better management.

ENI's mining and metallurgical division saw sales rise 66 per cent to L932bn, but losses rose from L322bn to L356bn in 1984.

ENI's engineering and services companies—including Saipem, Snamprometti and Nuovo Pignone—again made profits, while its textile and textile machinery divisions between them lost L270bn, compared with losses of L297bn in 1983. Their combined sales totalled L783bn.

The group as a whole had an 80 per cent improvement in self-financing which reached L4,249bn in 1984. Thanks to the reduction and refinancing of foreign debt, ENI cut foreign debt servicing from L1,056bn to L454bn in 1984. Total debt servicing costs fell from L2,921bn to L2,332bn.

The group as a whole had an 80 per cent improvement in self-financing which reached L4,249bn in 1984. Thanks to the reduction and refinancing of foreign debt, ENI cut foreign debt servicing from L1,056bn to L454bn in 1984. Total debt servicing costs fell from L2,921bn to L2,332bn.

Bayer buys out venture partner, lifts dividend

By John Davies in Frankfurt

AYER, the West German chemical and pharmaceutical concern, has increased its dividend on last year's earnings to DM 9 per share, from DM 7. This keeps it in step with BASF and Hoechst, the country's two other major chemical groups.

Yesterday Bayer also said that it had reached agreement with Ciba-Geigy to take over the Swiss group's 50 per cent stake in troubled Scheldt Chemie Brunsbüttel.

With total ownership, Bayer will continue to operate Scheldt Chemie as an integral part of its other chemical works at Brunsbüttel in northern Germany.

Scheldt Chemie suffered a severe setback last year with the decision to close a newly-built anthraquinone plant—to produce material used in making dyes—because of technical and economic problems. Earlier this year Bayer had said it was in talks with Ciba-Geigy about dissolving their partnership in the company.

Over the past two years the chemical concerns have recovered sharply from their reversals in 1982, with better domestic and export markets boosting the volume of sales and enabling them to use capacity more economically. Bayer has already reported a 34 per cent rise in its worldwide pre-tax earnings to DM 2,984m (\$944m) last year, on sales 15.3 per cent ahead at DM 43.5m.

The Bayer parent is also transferring DM-200m to reserves, compared with DM 150m the previous year. Hoechst made world-wide pre-tax profit of DM 2,855m, up 46 per cent, while BASF lifted group pre-tax earnings 50 per cent to DM 2,525m.

Fujitsu in deal with Telefonica

BY DAVID WHITE IN MADRID

FUJITSU of Japan has signed an agreement to set up a majority-controlled joint venture to assemble medium-sized computers in Spain with the partly state-owned telecommunications group Compania Nacional Telefonica de España.

The framework agreement signed in Tokyo encompasses a range of products in the fields of electronic processing, data transmission, and other automation, both for the Spanish and the export markets.

The joint company, in which Fujitsu is to hold 60 per cent and Telefonica the remainder, will be created through the merger of the Japanese group's subsidiary, Fujitsu España—up to now principally an importer—with Secoina, a Spanish com-

pany in which Fujitsu España currently holds 25 per cent.

Telefonica, already a minority shareholder in Secoina, recently agreed with the state holding company INI to buy the latter's majority interest. Secoina has factories in Madrid and Malaga, and makes small computers, modems, screens and printers.

The agreement between INI and Telefonica separated Secoina from its Catalan subsidiary, Telesisa, which has passed into the hands of INI and is currently the subject of negotiation with the French state-owned Bull group.

The Fujitsu deal is one of the main pillars of ambitious plans for the electronics industry in Spain, alongside a \$200m micro-

chip venture by American Telephone and Telegraph, and re-

financing the role of Telefonica as a focal point of development in the sector. The AT & T deal is awaiting U.S. approval. Telefonica said assembly of medium-frame computers at the new venture should begin "shortly."

The strengthening of Fujitsu's interests in Spain comes on the back of a wave of Japanese investment geared especially to Spanish integration in the EEC.

According to Japanese officials in Madrid, Japan's total investment of more than \$200m in Spain is its highest in Western Europe, and the number of Japanese companies to have set up bases in Spain is second only to West Germany.

Saurer back in the black

By Our Financial Staff

SAURER, the Swiss engineering group which two years ago wrote-off the bulk of its capital in an effort to reduce debt has made a profit for the first time in five years.

Against a 1983 loss of SwFr 2m, the group has bounced back for 1984 with a net profit of SwFr 5.3m (\$2.1m) after a 30 per cent increase in turnover to SwFr 556.5m. Saurer's losses in 1982 totalled SwFr 7.3m.

The company has pushed through a major reorganisation in recent years. In 1983 it cut capital by 80 per cent and bank creditors wrote-off SwFr 40.5m of debt. Saurer transferred its loss-making truck operation to a joint venture with Daimler-Benz. The company said the improvement for last year had been due to a recovery in textile machinery and to an order for vehicles from the Swiss army.

Fermenta to issue shares for KabiVitrum takeover

BY KEVIN DONE, OUR NORDIC CORRESPONDENT IN STOCKHOLM

FERMENTA, the rapidly expanding Swedish fine chemical and biotechnology group, is aiming to take over KabiVitrum, the Swedish state-owned pharmaceuticals company, through an issue of new shares to Procordia the state holding company.

The Swedish state will become a significant minority shareholder in the new group. Fermenta will create a third Swedish pharmaceuticals concern to rival the existing market leaders Astra and Pharmacia.

Together Fermenta and KabiVitrum will have annual sales well in excess of SKr 3,000m (\$336m) and a workforce of around 3,500. Astra had a turnover last year of SKr 3.9bn and Pharmacia SKr 2.85bn.

The deal involves one of the biggest disposals of a state company to the private sector in Sweden.

The boards of Fermenta and Procordia said yesterday that the managing directors of both companies had been given full backing to conclude negotiations on the merger.

Mr. Reifast-Ek-Sayed, Fermenta managing director, said the plan for a share issue directed to

Procordia would be put to the company's annual meeting on June 7.

He refused to say what stake Procordia would gain in Fermenta and refused to release any financial details of the takeover.

Fermenta has been one of the state's main earners on the Stockholm Stock Exchange in the last 12 months. Its shares have jumped from SKr 65, the issue price last summer, to a current trading level of around SKr 325 per share, putting a market valuation on the company of some SKr 2.5bn.

Procordia said yesterday that ACO Lakemede, the KabiVitrum division which manufactures and markets non-prescription drugs and personal hygiene products, would not be included in the deal with Fermenta. It accounts for around 19 per cent of KabiVitrum turnover.

KabiVitrum announced earlier this week that it had been forced to withdraw its most profitable ethical drug from the world market. The drug, Crescormon, accounted for almost 60 per cent of KabiVitrum sales of SKr 1.5bn last year.

Strong growth at Austrian Airlines

By Patrick Blain in Vienna

AUSTRIAN AIRLINES made a profit for the first time in 1984 on total revenue of Sch 6,562m (\$309m), up 15 per cent on 1983.

Gross profits before tax, allocations to reserves and provisions for depreciation almost doubled from Sch 350.2m in 1983 to Sch 673.5m.

The company, which is state owned, said the number of passengers carried was up by just over 6 per cent with a stronger increase of 7.5 per cent in scheduled passengers. The freight business also showed a marked upswing, rising by 18 per cent to just under 16,000 tonnes.

Success is prompting the company to have another look at the possibility of re-entering the market for long-haul flights. The company deliberately pulled out of long-haul flights more than 10 years ago concentrating instead on medium- and short-range traffic, especially on the east European and Middle Eastern markets.

The company is studying the possibility of flying to the Far East and across the North Atlantic. Such a move would be welcomed by the Vienna Airport Authority and tourist organisations in Austria.

The airport authority believes that direct flights to the Far East would attract a considerable number of passengers, especially business travellers, to Europe, who may then be tempted to spend some time in Vienna.

Norcem sells shipping and service units for \$32m

BY FAY GJESTER IN OSLO

NORCEM, the Norwegian industrial group which last year acquired Nordenfjeldske, a Trondheim ship and rig owning group, has sold the latter's shipping and service activities (including travel agencies, a Trondheim hotel, and catering interests) to the Kosmos shipping and industrial group for Nkr 290m (\$32.7m).

Norcem has never attempted

Finnish energy group boosts turnover

By Olli Virtanen in Helsinki

NESTE, Finland's national oil company, reported a 36 per cent jump in turnover to FM 32.2bn (\$4,955m) for 1984. Net profit rose by 14 per cent to FM 70.6m.

Operating profits were actually lower and Mr. Jankko Thannuola, chairman, attributed the weaker performance to the high value of the dollar. Another problem was the requirement to compensate losses suffered by a Soviet oil company based in Finland.

The growth of turnover is mostly attributed to a 74 per cent increase in oil trading where turnover exceeded oil refining for the first time. The chemical side virtually doubled turnover to FM 3.2bn mainly through acquisitions.

Neste's refineries in Finland worked at a utilisation rate of 90 per cent last year. Neste refined 92 per cent of oil products consumed in Finland.

Crude imports from the Soviet Union accounted for 76 per cent of the total while the North Sea and the Gulf shared the rest. Oil product exports rose by 34 per cent to 2.2m tonnes. According to the annual report, revenues from exports and trading totalled at FM 15.36bn last year.

Natural gas imports from the Soviet Union last year were up 14 per cent.

to conceal the fact that it bought Nordenfjeldske mainly in order to acquire the company's offshore activities.

Norcem has a 92 per cent stake in Nordenfjeldske, which now has liquid assets of around Nkr 570m—boosted Nkr 120m by the sale of its shipping and service activities. Nkr 170m of the purchase price was set off against debt.

N. AMERICAN QUARTERLY RESULTS

N. F. AMERSON Financial services		Six months		1984		1983	
First quarter		1985		1984		1983	
Revenue		\$		\$		\$	
Net profit		\$		\$		\$	
Net per share		\$		\$		\$	
Second quarter		1984-85		1984		1983	
Revenue		\$		\$		\$	
Net profit		\$		\$		\$	
Net per share		\$		\$		\$	
Six months		1985		1984		1983	
Revenue		\$		\$		\$	
Net profit		\$		\$		\$	
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INTL. COMPANIES & FINANCE

BUSINESS LAW

Rapid growth of unit trusts puts new life into Italian finance

BY ALAN FRIEDMAN IN MILAN

ITALY'S under-developed financial system has got a winner. Despite the unimaginative nature of the country's 90 per cent state-controlled banking system, its small and volatile Milan Bourse, and its restrictive exchange controls, Italian finance is getting excited about the growth in recent months of newly authorised unit trusts.

The 23 operating unit trusts, some of them only a few weeks old, have already attracted 200,000 investors and £1,000bn (\$2.5bn) in investment funds. The increase in March alone amounted to £700m and between the beginning of January and the end of March the flow of savings into unit trusts more than quadrupled the total. If forecasts prove accurate, then the 44 unit trusts likely to be authorised could net £1,000bn of funds by the year-end.

"The unit trusts have grown far beyond any predictions; this is a phenomenon which has given savers a new outlet for investing," comments Dr Alberto Milla, president of the Euromobiliare Investment Bank in Milan.

In a country which according to the Organisation for European Co-operation and Development (OECD) has the highest savings ratio in the world (22.7 per cent compared with Japan's 15 per cent)—and at the same time a limited range of investment opportunities—it is not hard to see why the new unit trusts are booming. Considering that capital gains on the unit trusts are tax-free to savers and that the goal is to provide a return which outperforms even tax-free Treasury bonds, it is not hard to understand the success of the new funds.

The growth of the unit trusts (which are open to Italians or foreign investors) has not only become the hottest development in Italian finance, it is also affecting shares on the Milan Bourse, which in the first quarter of this year saw an average price rise of 26 per cent.

Dr Ugo Sardelli, managing director of GenerComit, a new unit trust formed on a 50:50

basis by Banca Commerciale Italiana, Italy's second largest bank, and Generali, the biggest insurer, says the stock market boom can be explained only partly by the flow of unit trust funds.

At present, he notes, only 10 per cent or 15 per cent of the £5,000bn of unit trust funds are invested in the Milan Bourse. But given the small market capitalisation of the bourse, around \$25bn (a 10th the size of the London Stock Exchange), a transference of £500bn can have quite an impact. The impact is even greater when one realises that most funds go into only 20 to 25 actively traded shares out of the less than 200 quoted companies.

Dr Sardelli says the Milan stock market boom can be explained this way: a third of the boom comes from the unit trusts, another third from increased foreign investment (from the U.S., UK, West Germany and Switzerland) and the rest from traditional speculation.

"In Italy we say that you play on the bourse rather than invest. The unit trusts are part of a drive to change this speculative mentality and help create a more sophisticated financial market, in Italy," comments Dr Sardelli.

The Milan Bourse has not traditionally been a place for the small investor: dealings by the big players (banks, insurers and companies) tend to make investing in equities too dangerous. But the Consob stockmarket authority, 11 years after being formed, is starting to enforce regulations seriously. Companies coming to the Bourse finally need to offer consolidated and audited accounts, which was not always the case.

The problem in Italy has been that despite the leaps and bounds of industry in the last couple of decades, finance has until recently remained a clubby and under-regulated affair.

The new unit trusts, inspired by legislation passed in 1983, began operating last summer. The Government's objective

was to attract small investors to the equity market and to help individuals accumulate capital for retirement. Although Luxembourg-based Italian unit trusts have been operating for a decade (and have around £5,000bn of funds), they have not caught the imagination of the average Italian family.

Until the new unit trusts opened for business in Italy, the average Italian was faced with limited choice—he could leave money on deposit in the bank, purchase government tax-free



Dr Ugo Sardelli: "In Italy we say that you play on the bourse rather than invest."

bonds, venture into the Milan Bourse or buy unquoted property investment funds such as the soon-to-be liquidated Europrogramme.

In the first ten days of existence, the Banco di Roma's two unit trusts pulled in £258bn. The largest Italian unit trust, Arca, which is run by co-operative banks, attracted £1,294bn in six months. GenerComit found £400bn of funds less than four months after its start.

Here is how an Italian might see his investment options:

● The average yield on a share investment is 3 per cent.
● A bank deposit can pay between 8 per cent and 12 per

cent interest.
● Tax-free Treasury bonds currently yield 12.5 per cent to 14.5 per cent.

Thus, if the unit trusts provide, say a 17 per cent nominal return (around 8 per cent after adjusting for inflation) the attraction is clear. The mix of investment in Government bonds and shares not only means the saver need not worry about coupon clipping and money management, but may realise the highest return on offer—free of capital gains taxes.

It is still too early to tell what impact the new unit trusts may have on current account bank balances, but one banker says that it will be worth watching the extent to which the new trusts are gaining liquidity at the expense of banks. But a £10,000bn total of unit trust funds at year-end would still be tiny when compared to the £25,000bn of family bank deposits in the system. In addition to family bank savings, £375,676bn is held in Treasury Bonds (£149,576bn by families and £226,100bn by industry), according to the Bank of Italy.

GenerComit says its goal is to achieve a 50:50 mix between investments in Government bonds and shares (at present 53 per cent of its £400bn is in Government bonds and less than 19 per cent in shares). But the lure of overseas investment is also attractive to unit trusts—under the law they may place up to 10 per cent of portfolios abroad without making the normally required 40 per cent deposit on foreign investments.

It would, of course, be wrong to hail the new unit trusts as a panacea for Italy's under-developed financial market. As Dr Sardelli admits, Italy "has a long way to go before we reach the level of sophistication of Britain or the U.S." But the amazingly rapid growth of the unit trusts is already having a salutary impact on the stock market and shows every sign of developing still further.

For Italian finance the fresh liquidity will be useful. And for the small investor a new instrument is available.

A time bomb under your house

By A. H. HERMANN, Legal Correspondent

LATENT DEFECTS, the subject of a report by the Law Reform Committee chaired by Lord Scarman—a report strongly criticised by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)—are not something to be left to lawyers.

There may be a time bomb buried in the foundations of your house. Should it go off, it is likely to produce not a crack in the wall, a water leak or a collapsed ceiling, but also litigation, that could easily spread over 15 years and cost more than you can ever hope to get as compensation—which will be a law depriving those who suffer damage which remained hidden for more than six years of all remedies, judge-made law has moved towards starting the period of limitation at the point of discoverability. The Court of Appeal favoured this approach in *Sporham-Smiter* (1976/1 Q B 888) but this was a deviation from the general principle that the period of limitation runs from the accrual of the cause of action.

There was an "long stop," like the 30-year limit in the second sentence of s.1489, and the liability for undiscovered damage could run into perpetuity. The law was felt to be uncertain, unfair, and in some cases unenforceable. The Law Reform Committee was therefore asked in 1980 to recommend what should be the limitation period in negligence cases involving latent defects, rather than latent disease or injury to the person.

Before the Committee could make up its mind, the trend towards discoverability was completely reversed by the House of Lords in *Pirelli* (1983) 2 A.C.1. This made it clear that the six-year limitation period runs from the date of the damage, and not from the date of its discoverability, and that if the time runs against one owner, it also runs against all his successors in title.

In its report, presented to Parliament by the Lord Chancellor last November, the Committee tried to soften the harshness of the law in respect of

able diligence could have, discovered the damage. This agrees with the continental approach, stated with classical lucidity in section 1489 of the Austrian (Maria-Theresian) Civil Code: "No action for damages can be brought later than three years from the time when the victim learned of the damage and who caused it, whether by breach of contract or otherwise. If the victim did not learn of the damage or who caused it, or if it was the result of felony, the right to sue is extinguished only after 30 years."

Because of the obvious unfairness of a law depriving those who suffer damage which remained hidden for more than six years of all remedies, judge-made law has moved towards starting the period of limitation at the point of discoverability. The Court of Appeal favoured this approach in *Sporham-Smiter* (1976/1 Q B 888) but this was a deviation from the general principle that the period of limitation runs from the accrual of the cause of action.

There was an "long stop," like the 30-year limit in the second sentence of s.1489, and the liability for undiscovered damage could run into perpetuity. The law was felt to be uncertain, unfair, and in some cases unenforceable. The Law Reform Committee was therefore asked in 1980 to recommend what should be the limitation period in negligence cases involving latent defects, rather than latent disease or injury to the person.

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In its report, presented to Parliament by the Lord Chancellor last November, the Committee tried to soften the harshness of the law in respect of

negligence cases generally, not only in the building industry. It recommended that to protect the victim, the present period of six years from the date of damage should be extended by three years from the date significant damage was or could have been discovered. And to protect those who caused the damage by their negligence, there should be a "long stop," precluding the institution of an action more than 15 years from the defendant's breach of duty.

These recommendations have now been bitterly attacked by the architects. In its criticism of the report published on April 11, RIBA argues that the 15-year long stop is excessive, indefinite as to starting point, breached by provisions for contributories of other parties and by exceptions made for fraud, deliberate concealment and mistake. In practice the proposal will result in cases coming to trial more than 25 years after the events in dispute, they say. "Whatever small benefit may accrue to a few potential claimants and defendants is far outweighed by the added complexity and confusion of rules."

This criticism is difficult to refute. Should the recommendations become law, an architect, or another potentially liable person, would have to pay indemnity insurance premiums till the end of his days, and live until 102 to avoid defending claims arising out of work for which he was commissioned at the age of 90. But the alternative proposed by RIBA is not very palatable either.

RIBA says that remedies for building defects should be recognised as a special case. This seems reasonable. The long stop period should commence with the completion of the building work. This would, no doubt, make the position of the parties much clearer. The long stop should be ten years, firm and final, with an extension for contribution proceedings as this period can be covered by a single insurance premium, payable at the time the commission is accepted or the

work is completed, according to RIBA. This sounds well but may operate against the public interest.

The entire cost of the indemnity insurance would be passed on to the investor and the architect or builder would be relieved of a major incentive to deliver fault-free work. True, tect and builders would probably be asked to pay higher premiums but these could be passed on without the investors realising the reason for it.

A better solution might be a three-year period of limitation from the date of discoverability with a long stop running from the completion of the work for a period of 12 years during which the liability of the defendant would start to diminish gradually, say, after six years. During the second half of the period it would fall from 100 per cent to zero.

The protection of the investor or of the house owner could be separated from the penalty on the negligent architect. Each building owner could be obliged by legislation to take insurance cover to enable him to finance repairs which became necessary within a certain period, say, 12 years from completion. He could continue voluntarily after that and would not have to go to law et al. The insurers could recover from the architect, if liable, under his, also obligatory, indemnity insurance administered by RIBA on the model of the Law Society's indemnity insurance for solicitors. Disputes would be resolved exclusively by arbitration and premiums to be paid by individual architects would be related to the awards made against them.

The idea is certainly quite rough and unrefined. But in view of the lack of satisfactory proposals on the table, it might, I hope, spark off a profitable discussion.

Law Reform Committee, 24th Report (Latent Damage), Cmnd. 9390, 50 £3.75.
Letter addressed by RIBA to Mr Mark Hatcher, Lord Chancellor's Department, March 29, 1985.



Malaysia

Issue on a yield basis of

£75,000,000 Loan Stock 2009

The Issue Yield (as defined in, and calculated in accordance with the terms of, the Prospectus dated 23rd April, 1985) on the above Stock is 11.929 per cent per annum. The Stock will, on issue, bear interest at the rate of 10 3/4 per cent per annum. The issue price is £90.705 per cent. The first interest payment will be payable on 31st January, 1986 and will amount to £5.5763 per £100 nominal amount of Stock. Thereafter, interest will be payable half yearly in arrears on 31st January and 31st July in each year.

The application list will open at 10.00 a.m. today, Thursday, 25th April, 1985 and will close later today.

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

on behalf of

Malaysia

25th April, 1985

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March 1985

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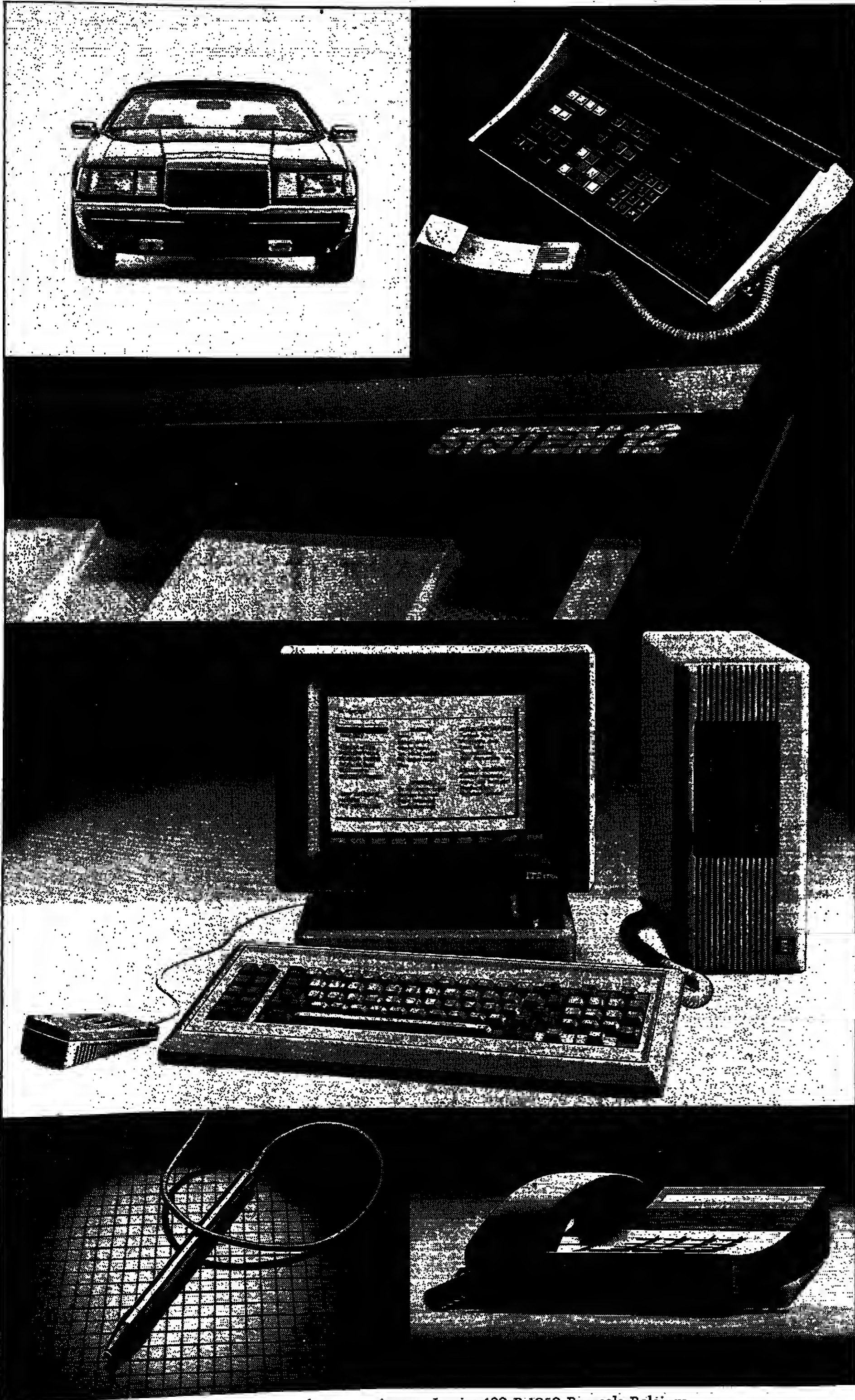
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UK COMPANY NEWS

Laing over £30m despite static returns from UK

John Laing, the construction engineer, yesterday reported its results for 1984 which at £30.3m pre-tax, against £23.8m, were in line with most City estimates.

Nearly all of the increase stemmed from a £4.1m turnaround to the black by overseas operations and higher investment income and net interest receivable of £6.28m, against £4.4m.

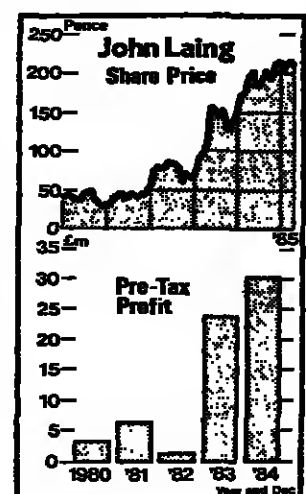
UK activities turned in virtually unchanged trading profits of £22.47m against £22m.

"Competition in the UK construction industry remains severe," says Mr L. J. Holliday, the chairman. But building and civil engineering activities "have performed well and have consolidated their premier position in the market."

Laing sold over 1,500 houses in 1984 and has become one of the leading builders in South East England and Scotland.

While profits were affected by entry costs into the market for retirement homes and establishing a home business in the U.S., the investment "has strengthened the basis for future profit and growth."

The property development



activity, he says, continues to expand as forecast, and will contribute to profits in 1985.

Overseas operations, which contributed £1.54m, traded more satisfactorily, "although we have

continued to assess profits conservatively because of difficulties generally prevailing in the Middle East."

Group turnover was up by £75m to £504m and generated trading profits of £24.02m (£18.41m); profits were split as to building and engineering (£12.13m (£12.17m)), homes and other development (£8.47m (£8.31m)), products and other trading (£1.69m (£1.32m)) and the remainder overseas.

The total dividend is being lifted by 20 per cent to 6p per share by a higher final payment of 4.25p against £3.75p. The dividend cover is again over five with stated earnings per share up from 28.6p to 31.5p.

Tax rose to £13.11m, against £9.35m, leaving net profits—after minorities—of £10.98m (£14.32m). After all charges (there were extraordinary debits of £2.15m in 1983), retained profits were £13.74m (£9.47m).

Net group funds in 1984 increased by £10m to £24m while investment in land and property development rose by £24m.

See Lex

Dee to lift payout and sell Booker holding

By Alexander Nicol

Dee Corporation, the super-markets group, yesterday disclosed plans for a dividend increase which it was barred from revealing during its failed bid for Booker McConnell, the food distribution and agricultural and health products group.

Following the failure last Friday to capture a majority of Booker with its £357m bid, Dee confirmed yesterday that it plans to sell its 15.5 per cent stake in Booker. Mr Alec Monk, Dee chairman, said in a letter to shareholders that "this will be done at our convenience in a manner which will be of most benefit to Dee shareholders."

Dee sold over 4 per cent of Booker before making its bid, and said in its offer document that it was a potential seller of its remaining stake if the bid failed.

Dee's sale of shares, and its statement that it might sell more if Booker's share price reached "unrealistic" levels, meant that it was barred from increasing the offer. The Take-over Panel effectively treated the terms as final.

A bidder whose offer is final may make a profit and dividend forecast, but cannot increase them. The Panel did allow Dee to alter its profit forecast from £56m to £54m for the year ending April 27, 1985, because the change was due to property gains which had been specifically excluded from the initial estimate.

It did not, however, let Dee alter its dividend estimate. It forecast a final dividend of 3.5p, making 5.75p against 4.75p for the previous year. This enabled Booker to contend that Dee's terms would produce a fall in income for Booker shareholders compared with its 1984 dividend and 1985 forecast.

Yesterday, Dee said it now expects to pay a final dividend of 5p, making 7.25p for the year, 83 per cent up on last year.

Mr Monk said sale of the Booker shares was expected to produce an extraordinary profit, and that the bid's failure had not harmed Dee's results or prospects.

Booker shares rose 5p yesterday to 250p, compared with the 250p average price at which Dee previously sold shares. Dee shares gained 6p to 226p.

Charles Batchelor examines RHP's £15m bid for Muirhead
Playing a different ball game

THE PATHS of two hattered survivors of the British engineering industry's recession have crossed with yesterday's £14.2m takeover bid by RHP Group for Muirhead.

Muirhead is the latest block in RHP's 10-year-old effort to diversify out of its traditional ball-bearing business into the electrical engineering sector.

RHP, formerly Ransome Hoffman Pollard, has built up a wide-ranging electrical business including industrial control equipment, capacitors, micro-electronic circuits and photo electric devices and sensors by a series of acquisitions of companies considerably smaller than Muirhead.

The electrical side contributed 53m worth of pre-interest profits of RHP on turnover of £22m in the year ended September 1984. This performance compares favourably with the 55m of profits RHP made from its £77m worth of bearings business, making self-lubricating units, contributing profits of £500,000 on sales of £4m.

Mr David Ewart, RHP's chairman, believes a link up with Muirhead will broaden RHP's electrical base and give Muirhead the financial strength to develop its own products and markets more effectively.

RHP was formed in late 1980 from three leading British-owned bearing manufacturers, Ransome & Marles, Hoffman Manufacturing and Pollard. The merger was prompted by the Labour Government's Industrial Reorganisation Corporation following approaches first to Ransome and then to Pollard by SKF of Sweden, the world's largest ball bearing manufacturer.

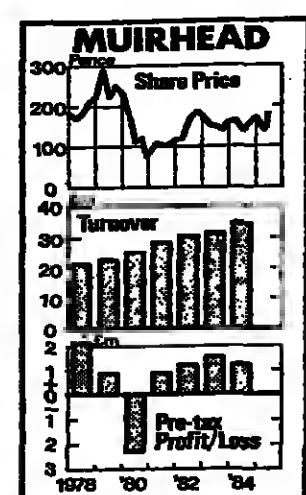
The companies in RHP underwent a major reorganisation as the product range was rationalised and job numbers cut by one-third to 10,000.

Despite the growing contribution of the electrical engineering side in recent years, RHP has remained a highly volatile and there is no guarantee the sharp swings of the recent past are over. From a peak of £11m pre-tax in the year ended September 1980, profits slumped to £6.2m last year.

RHP now claims about 20 per cent of the UK ball bearing market, putting it roughly on a par with SKF. The group has been to go for higher value niche markets, avoiding commodity products. Precision products go into auto and automotive engines, robot systems and machine tools, and transmissions of agricultural



Mr David Ewart, chairman of RHP, believes a link-up with Muirhead will broaden the group's electrical base



Sir Raymond dBrown, chairman of Muirhead... we have enjoyed reliable steady growth

equipment and conveyor belts.

Despite the rationalisation, RHP still makes 2,500 bearing types a year and carries stocks of 10,000 types, a range wider than any but SKF itself.

"Our ball bearing business is in a thunderous good shape," Mr Ewart said. "We got our finances right then developed our commercial strategy under a new management in the past few years has made it a perennial

bid candidate. Only in the past few months, however, has RHP surfaced as the possible suitor.

Until April 1984 Tyco Laboratories, a U.S. packaging and electrical company had been seen as the obvious bidder. Tyco had built up a 28.6 per cent stake in Muirhead over a five-year period.

But the early death of Mr Joseph Graziano, Tyco's chairman, brought in a successor who switched the company's focus to the U.S. domestic market and the Muirhead stake was sold to 25 UK institutions early last year.

RHP started looking at Muirhead in the summer of 1984, in particular at its Vactrim components business, providing half of Muirhead's turnover from

precision components and servo systems.

RHP began buying Muirhead shares last autumn but backed off when the share price started to rise and Muirhead was late in publishing its 1984 accounts. When Muirhead's shares started to ease and with 4.6 per cent of its equity already under its belt, RHP took the decision to make a bid.

Muirhead is a one-time high flying stock which made its name as a manufacturer of advanced facsimile systems but which now makes 84 per cent of its sales in the field of precision electromechanical components and systems.

These include a system for the control of ship's stabilisers which is being installed in U.S. Navy frigates as well as components for the satellite monitoring the progress of Halley's Comet and for the Space Shuttle's experimental payloads.

Muirhead continues to supply a wide range of specialised facsimile systems to newspapers including the Financial Times—meteorological bureaux, airports, security services and armed forces.

It aims to invest between 7 and 10 per cent of its turnover—of £34.5m in the year ended September 1984—in research and development, but it faces a struggle to keep up with tough international competition. In the view of some observers it has lost its technological edge. Its experience in the office computer field has not been of it.

happy. In 1979 it went into a joint venture with Nexos, a company with the backing of the National Enterprise Board. But despite £30m worth of Government backing, Nexos went down in early 1983.

Later that year Muirhead linked with OKI of Japan to distribute that company's document facsimile machines. With 13 facsimile makers dogging it out in the crowded UK market pressure on margins has been very strong. Failure to establish an industry standard has held back the growth of

facsimile machines compared to entrenched rivals such as the Ikon.

Sir Raymond Brown, former chairman of Kecal electronics group, and chairman of Muirhead for the past 14 years, is philosophical about the bid for what he calls "a unique little company."

"We have enjoyed reliable steady growth with the odd hiccup," he said yesterday. "We win much of our business by competitive tender in tough markets. Half our turnover goes to the defence industries. Unfortunately that market has been falling off and we are the small company at the end of the line which takes the brunt

Turriff misses profit forecast

Turriff Corporation, the huller and property developer, has missed a profits forecast made three months after its year-end because of a further provision on one particular contract.

Yesterday's announcement of a slump in profits for 1984 from £3.04m to £267,000 compares with a forecast of £1m made last month in a circular to shareholders outlining Turriff's intention to buy the remaining 51 per cent of Engineering Support Services within three years.

This is the largest reduction in profit for 10 years, and ends six years of steady growth from 1977's level of £1.66m pre-tax. The shares, which fell by 45p to 300p on last month's warning, shed 25p yesterday and closed at 260p, valuing Turriff at £12.3m.

Despite the decline the single final dividend is being held at 7p, although the payment is not covered with Turriff showing an attributable loss of £10,000.

against a profit of £1.55m, after extraordinary debits.

"The poor performance in 1984 is entirely due to losses in our construction activities, in particular contracts entered into two or three years ago, now completed or nearing completion," says Mr W. G. Turriff, the chairman.

Last month, the company explained that the average life of major contracts was two years which made final accounting difficult, particularly in 1984 when the number of contracts actually increased.

Mr Turriff says the agreement of a number of final accounts and claims remains to be negotiated and should produce recoveries in the future.

"These could be substantial, although amounts and time-scale," he says, "are difficult to forecast. It is a feature of the long-term contracting business that the outcome of contracts cannot be determined until claims arising have finally been negotiated."

Referring to the contract behind the missed forecast, he says that it is taking longer than expected to reach an agreement on the related claim, and completion costs are also higher than anticipated; the contract is virtually complete and the site

will soon close.

He is confident the problems should not recur following management reorganisation and "positive control" of tenders and contract execution.

With the continuing extreme competition prevailing in general construction we are positively limiting our turnover and exposure, with refurbishment the dominant construction activity."

Turnover in 1984 amounted to £69.41m (£61.78m). Further construction offices have been closed which, together with provisions made last year for closures proved to be inadequate and the additional costs incurred, brought about extraordinary debits of £435,000 (£143,000).

Surplus funds, which were "exceptionally high" at the end of 1983, were reduced by the purchase of the other 50 per cent of Abelsons and the consolidation of its borrowings, together with the effect of construction losses and changes in working capital.

Net bank balances in hand at the end of 1984 were £1.6m, but, says Mr Turriff, "we expect to be cash positive at the end of 1985, subject to the purchase of property for development in the normal course of our business."

Booker shares rose 5p yesterday to 250p, compared with the 250p average price at which Dee previously sold shares. Dee shares gained 6p to 226p.

Micro Business second half lower than expected

SECOND half pre-tax profits of Micro Business Systems, micro-computers and terminals company quoted on the USM, were lower than expected, although figures for the whole of 1984 showed an 89 per cent expansion from £1.8m to £3.4m.

Turnover increased significantly in the second six months, up from £7.34m to £27.47m—total for the 12 months was £42.94m (£41.11m) but second half profits at £1.60m (£81,000) were lower than expectations, the directors say, because of pressure on prices on dollar-sourced products, and continued pressure on margins in the UK micro-computer business.

They state, however, that even with the strong dollar and high interest rates experienced during the first quarter of 1985, the group has met the increased target which it has set for the whole of the current year.

A final distribution of 1.25p makes a total dividend of 1.75p, which is compared with an adjusted 1.125p.

● comment

At the interim stage, Micro Business Systems put on a brave face about the effect of the price squeeze in the microcomputer market. But yesterday it became

clear that the company, like other distributors, has suffered from the intense competition which has driven the price of the dollar increased the pressure, hitting imported product lines, particularly the U.S.-made Telecommunications Systems Computer Peripherals. This subsidiary, bought last year, made a loss of over £100,000. In these circumstances MBS is wise to talk of consolidation in 1985, seeking to hold rather than expand market share. Such a policy will help control borrowing which attracts shareholder funds and have become particularly onerous in the wake of interest-rate increases earlier this year. This is a necessary means of funding the working capital MBS needs to support sales which are still growing strongly, perhaps by 10 per cent in the current year, down 10p to 160p, reflect a very cautious view of the prospects—assuming full-year profits of 25m pre-tax and a 35 per cent tax charge, they trade on a multiple of 17. As the industry puts the current troubles behind it, with its emphasis on computer service and maintenance backing up hardware sales, could begin to look attractive.

Two pick up 26% of Prince of Wales

Two companies have picked up a total of 26 per cent of Prince of Wales Hotels, in which the U.S. group of hotels has a 29.9 per cent stake.

Mr Bill Crossman, POW chairman, said yesterday he was attempting to discover further details about the two buyers, for Andenases which has 17.9 per cent, and Sunbelt Holdings with 8.2 per cent. It was not clear whether they were acting in concert.

Some of the purchased shares appeared to have come from the Kinwell Investments Office, which had built up a 18.6 per cent stake. Taddale Investments held a majority of Prince of Wales, but placed the entire holding earlier this month.

POW's share price fell 2p yesterday to 105p, valuing the company at £13.4m.

Minihouse up 76% and sees more growth

Minihouse Holding, the Dutch computer systems house, increased pre-tax profits by 76 per cent in 1984 to Dfl 4.9m (£1.1m) against Dfl 3m (£0.7m) on turnover up 93 per cent to Dfl 46.8m (Dfl 24.2m).

Earnings per share rose to Dfl 1.80 (Dfl 1.03) and the final dividend is Dfl 0.2 to make a total of Dfl 0.3 for the year. Mr Theo Mulder, chairman, has "every confidence" that the company whose turnover has grown at an average 52 per cent in the last five years, will show further growth in 1985.

Minihouse started trading on Granville's OTC in December 1983 at 27p a share, and is now capitalised at £17m with the shares currently standing at a high of 66p. It supplies both hardware and software packages under long term maintenance contracts.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current Payment	Date of payment	Corr. of dividend	Total for year	Total last year
Bestobell	0.5	June 17	0.5	1.0	1.0
Campari	0.5	June 17	0.5	1.0	1.0
S. Casket	0.5	June 17	0.5	1.0	1.0
Ellis and Goldstein	1.451	June 28	1.451	2.902	2.902
W. J. Gleeson	1.5	June 28	1.5	3.0	3.0
John Laing	4.25	July 8	3.75	8.0	8.0
Micro Business	1.25	July 8	0.58	1.75	1.13
Pochina	1.75	July 1	1.25	3.0	3.0
Smallshaw	7	July 1	7	14	14
Turriff	7	July 29	7	14	14
Fleming Shaw	6	July 29	4.75	10.75	6.75

*Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated. *Equivalent after allowing for scrip issues. †On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. ‡USM stock. §Unquoted stock. ¶On capital increased by one-for-four scrip issue. || Increase to reduce disparity.

BCC announces
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Over-the-Counter Market

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Div. (p.)	Brown Yield	P/E	Fully
141	123	Ass. Ent. Ind. Ind.	140	—	10.0	4.4	7.9	8.5
161	123	Ass. Ent. Ind. Ind. CULS	140	—	10.0	4.4	7.9	8.5
77	51	Airprange Group	50	-1	8.4	11.8	8.1	7.2
22	25	Arrol-Johnston	25	—	2.6	8.1	4.1	3.8
146	108	Barton Hill	142	—	3.4	2.4	14.8	23.2
58	42	Gray Technologies	50	—	3.8	7.4	8.1	7.0
201	170	ICI	170	—	12.0	10.7	12.2	—
182	110	CCL Type Conv. Pnt	110	—	15.7	13.8	—	—
120	100	Corbionum Ind.	120	—	48.0	4.1	8.8	8.3
88	84	Carborundum 2.5% P	88	—	10.7	12.2	—	—
314	182	Frank Horrell	314	—	6.5	18.3	4.7	7.5
348	170	Deborah Services	348	—	15.1	15.2	10.5	13.8
22	25	Frederick Parker	22	—	8.8	3.6	10.5	13.8
33	33	George Slat	33	—	—	—	—	—
50	22	Ind. Precision Castings	22	—	2.7	12.3	6.0	8.5
218	188	Iata Group	188	—	16.0	7.5	7.5	13.8
124	101	Jackson Group	105	—	4.8	4.7	4.8	8.8
288	213	James Burrough	244	—	13.7	8.8	8.7	8.7
63	53	James Burrough	55	—	12.8	15.2	—	—
87	71	John Howard and Co.	87	—	5.0	8.7	8.8	10.8
217	100	Lingaphone Ord.	217	—	15.0	15.3	8.0	8.3
100	89	Lingaphone 10.5% P	98	—	3.8	10.0	—	—
850	300	Minihouse Holding NV	850	—	3.8	10.3	46.8	81.2
120	110	Robt. Janling	120	—	8.0	10.0	—	—
60	28	Suttons "A"	34	+1	8.7	18.8	17.8	8.1
82	61	Torrey and Carling	76	—	4.3	1.3	8.2	17.3
403	325	Trevelyan Holdings	325	—	1.3	4.3	12.0	18.7
30	17	Unilock Holdings	30	+1	1.3	4.3	14.6	18.7
88	81	Walter Alexander	85	—	7.5	7.5	8.2	11.4
247	218	W. S. Yeates	218	—	17.4	20.0	8.2	10.7

Prices and details of services now available on Prestel, page 48146

Public Works Loan Board rates

Effective April 24 1985
Quota loans repaid by EIP†

Years	by EIP†	At	At	At
1	111	111	111	111
Over 1, up to 2	111	111	111	111
Over 2, up to 3	111	111	111	111
Over 3, up to 4	111	111	111	111
Over 4, up to 5	111	111	111	111
Over 5, up to 6	111	111	111	111
Over 6, up to 7	111	111	111	111
Over 7, up to 8	111	111	111	111
Over 8, up to 9	111	111	111	111
Over 9, up to 10	111	111	111	111
Over 10, up to 15	111	111	111	111
Over 15, up to 25	111	111	111	111
Over 25	104	104	104	104

† Non-quota loans B are 1 per cent higher in each case than non-quota loans A. ‡ Equal instalments of principal. § Repayment by half-yearly annuity (fixed equal half-yearly payments to include principal and interest). ¶ With half-yearly payments of interest only.

UNIT TRUST ASSOCIATION

1984 - A YEAR OF EXPANSION

(Extracts from the Chairman's statement of the twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Unit Trust Association on 24 April 1985)

FIFTH YEAR OF RECORD SALES

SPREADING THE MESSAGE THE WAY AHEAD

Audrey Head
Chairman
Unit Trust Association

1984 saw continued expansion in the unit trust industry with sales reaching a new high of £2,918m and total funds under management achieving a new record of £15,099m.

The number of unit holder accounts (direct or through linked life assurance) rose by a further 14%, a satisfactory increase. A vast educational task remains to promote a greater understanding of equity investment and the part unit trusts can play within it.

The White Paper which provides a new framework for investor protection has been generally welcomed and offers the unit trust industry exciting new opportunities in the years to come.

For a copy of 'Unit Trust News', 'Unit Trusts from the Beginning' or 'Explaining Unit Trusts', please send a large stamped addressed envelope to:

The Unit Trust Association
Booklet Department, Park House,
16 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7JP

UK COMPANY NEWS

Vickers enters U.S. office furniture market

BY ANDREW FISHER

Vickers, the Rolls-Royce car and engineering group, is paying \$15m for Comforto, a European office furniture company, in its largest acquisition for several years.

Mr David Plawow, the chief executive, said the purchase formed part of the group's restructuring and would add to its position in the business equipment market, where Vickers' sales are around \$60m a year. Further acquisitions would be aimed at developing existing businesses, especially in overseas markets.

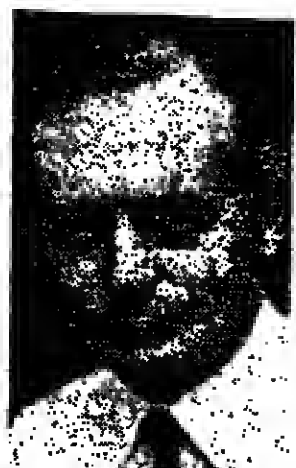
Comforto is based in Basel, Switzerland, and its annual sales total £25m. It employs 500 people, has plants in Switzerland, West Germany, and the U.S., and specialises in high quality chairs.

The basic purchase price is \$12.5m, with a further \$1.5m due to the vendors, the brothers Eberhard and Günther Panberg, at the end of 1985. If there are no warranty claims, the basic price can be adjusted up by \$500,000 and down by \$700,000, depending on audited net growth at end-December 1984.

Mr Chris Glasson, chief executive of Vickers' business equipment division, said the market for office equipment was growing fast, especially in the U.S. where the total market is worth some \$5bn (\$45m) a year.

Vickers makes steel and wood furniture for offices, including office cabinets, of which it turns out more than 150,000 a year. But new technology would eventually overtake traditional filing methods, he added.

Vickers is not in the U.S. office market, but will have nearly 18 per cent of its business equipment sales there after buying Comforto. The UK sales share will drop to 29 per cent from 41 per cent and that in France from 52 per cent to 36 per cent. Comforto's pre-tax profit in



Mr David Plawow, managing director and chief executive of Vickers

1983 was \$2.7m, with more than \$3.5m estimated for last year. Vickers' own business equipment profits were only \$2.7m last year, with production problems in France—now sorted out—causing a drop from \$3.4m.

Mr Glasson said office employment had been rising, even during the manufacturing recession. New office methods, including automation, demanded higher equipment standards. The financial services revolution was boosting UK business.

He said another Comforto assembly plant might be opened in the U.S. The present one is in North Carolina. Vickers, the largest European office furniture manufacturer with 2,300 employees, has two factories in Kent.

Vickers will pay \$5.1m of the purchase price on completion and the rest after audited net worth at December 31 1984, has been worked out. Comforto's net worth at the end of 1983 was \$4.1m.

Campari hit by stocks sale provisions

LOSSES AFTER interest were slightly reduced from \$155,810 to \$144,811 at Campari International in the year to end November last, but exceptional charges left the group with a deficit of \$2.84m at the pre-tax level.

The directors of the company, an importer and distributor of liquor, said the sale of stocks and equipment, calculated that gross margins were reduced by \$875,000 and operating charges increased by \$225,000 by the second half programme of reduced selling prices on selected stock lines, a result of the commitment to cut borrowing.

There was also a provision of \$1.5m made against stocks in hand at the year end, for a total exceptional debit of \$2.7m. The directors state that such exceptional provisions will not be required in the future.

There are further provisions below the line amounting to \$771,087 relating mainly to major reorganisations changes made during the year, when the group closed its London warehouse and integrated its operations at the Northampton premises. It also transferred the warehousing and administration (excluding marketing and sales) of the German subsidiary to certain premises in Holland.

After an unchanged total dividend of 1p for the year—the final is 0.5p net per share—total profits of \$3.1m (\$2.5m) were retained, leaving a deficit of \$2.84m (\$2.3m). Losses per share came to a stated 33.5p (\$3.02p).

Mr Henry Lipton, the chairman, says that the fundamental adjustments made during the year leave the group in a sound position to face the future.

Turnover at \$22.24m was broadly in line with that generated in 1983 (\$20.45m), while stock levels at the year end had been reduced by \$5.3m or 39 per cent, with a favourable impact on borrowings.

The chairman says that current trading reflects the market's acceptance of the new leisurewear and camping ranges, and that the firm's new orders are more than doubled from last year. He expects that with the continuing concentration on reducing overheads and borrowings, the group will return to profitability.

The tax charge for the year totalled \$33,411 (\$27,925), with the bulk consisting of ACT written off at \$24,234 (\$20,251). The overseas tax bill fell considerably from \$65,272 to \$3,147.

Revaluation reserves have been decreased by \$40,000 (nil) in accordance with the director's reassessment of the market values of the properties, which are \$240,000 in excess of the book value.

Comment
Campari's shareholders must be getting fed up with hearing that the company has at last achieved a solid base, on which to rebuild a profitable company. The latest results—the most gruesome yet suggest, however, that strident action has been taken at last. At a cost of \$3.5m (of which \$0.7m was taken below the line) the company has reduced its stock level by nearly 40 per cent, transferred its London warehouse to a cheaper site in the Netherlands, and substantially cut the number of its staff. Its debt mountain has been reduced from \$16m to \$13.8m, although the gearing has worsened from 190 to over 300 per cent as the write-offs and closures have made serious inroads into shareholders' funds. The Chairman's intention to reduce debt this year by a further \$5m looks optimistic, and the balance sheet will look terrific for some time to come. Meanwhile, Campari's products sell well, and the company with the UK order book up by over 100 per cent since last year. If the company can be believed that there will be no need for further write-offs, the shares down to 28p on the results should be held to give this company one last chance.

Provisions cut Bestobell to £0.5m

FURTHER heavy provisions for incurred and expected deductions on Australian contracting have cut deeply into 1984 pre-tax profits of Bestobell.

Add, in the light of the results this financial year, is being omitted leaving shareholders with 5.7p net for the year, against 13.5p previously.

In a trading statement last February group chairman Mr Sandy Marshall warned that earnings would be adversely affected by poor trading conditions in the Southern Hemisphere and anticipated losses on Australian contracting.

He says now that an additional net provision of \$3.6m (\$2.6m) was required, principally against further potential losses on a thermal insulation contract connected with the construction of a power station at Loy Yang, Victoria.

The provisions were taken above the line which together with higher interest costs left group pre-tax profits at \$471,000, down from 1983's \$5.13m.

Mr Marshall says it is regrettable that after 1983's experience the group should again be faced with a major problem in Australian contracting.

He considers, however, that the provisions will be sufficient to cover all foreseeable losses on the contract.

The company concerned, Bestobell Australia Limited (BAL), the 79 per cent owned subsidiary, was found to be in need of support. This has now been arranged with Bestobell agreeing to purchase BAL's share in the capital of Bestobell South East (BSEA) for A\$9.4m (\$3.28m).

Alternatively, the sum may be advanced to BAL secured on the share of BSEA. Security over the other assets of BAL has been given to BAL's bankers, whose advances have also been guaranteed by Bestobell.

Mr Graham Woodhead, a main board director of Bestobell, has been seconded to BAL as chief executive. Group turnover for 1984 pushed ahead from \$157.28m to \$150.09m.

However, there was a marked deterioration in trading conditions in Southern Africa and Australia and problems in one of the North American subsidiaries and trading profits fell from \$5.44m to \$5.86m.

Bestobell South Africa, a consistent and significant contributor to the group over the years, suffered from pressures on the economy there, drought conditions, a weak currency, high interest rates and high inflation and plunged into loss. The company was assured that things were under control on a power station contract in Victoria, Australia—the contract itself is only worth \$7.6m at today's exchange rates.

The blame for this is put on underpricing at the time of tendering—the same explanation as was given over another Australian major contract on which money was lost in 1983. However, even in those areas where the work was modest and the profits the weakness of the pound or the buoyancy of particular markets (or both) should have not enough to plug the holes.



Mr Sandy Marshall

Loss per 25p share emerged at 10.3p, compared with earnings of 22.5p.

After reference and ordinary dividend payments there was a transfer from reserves of \$4.33m (\$1.21m).

Comment
The slings and arrows of outrageous misfortune all appear to have been pointed in the direction of Bestobell in 1984. A provision of \$3.6m has had to be made (long after shareholders were assured that things were under control) on a power station contract in Victoria, Australia—the contract itself is only worth \$7.6m at today's exchange rates.

The blame for this is put on underpricing at the time of tendering—the same explanation as was given over another Australian major contract on which money was lost in 1983. However, even in those areas where the work was modest and the profits the weakness of the pound or the buoyancy of particular markets (or both) should have not enough to plug the holes.

Elsewhere, results were steady with particularly good performance in the greater part of the aviation and defence-related activities where a substantial recovery was secured.

Group interest charges surged from \$1.79m to \$2.84m and tax took \$1.45m more at \$3.08m, to leave a net loss of \$2.58m—a swing of \$5.1m when compared with 1983's profits previously of \$5.33m.

	Sales		Trading profits		% change
	1984 £'000	1983 £'000	1984 £'000	1983 £'000	
By business group					
Contract & instrumentation	34,538	29,774	2,941	2,916	0.86
Aviation & engineering	24,348	15,414	2,207	1,874	17.3
North America	22,628	17,712	466	1,032	-55.8
Australia	54,517	50,176	1,892	2,241	-25.16
Africa	14,125	17,419	581	1,456	-60.1
Less inter-unit sales	3,916	3,367	—	—	—
Total	150,090	137,258	6,943	9,541	-27.02
By territory					
UK	50,045	44,549	4,831	4,305	12.2
Europe	4,945	7,282	310	487	-34.34
North America	22,458	17,712	444	1,032	-56.97
Australia & New Zealand	46,048	43,629	1,038	1,536	-32.48
South East Asia	8,449	7,147	648	735	-9.2
South Africa	8,872	9,482	1,024	341	—
Central Africa	7,253	7,737	488	1,115	-54.23
Total	150,090	137,258	6,943	9,541	-27.02

* Excludes an exceptional item of £2.18m net (1983—£2.62m).

† Excludes an exceptional item of £472,000 (1983—nil) & Loss.

BAT's chairman gets 33% pay rise

BAT Industries, currently top of the UK profits league for industrial companies, paid its chairman, Mr Patrick Sheehy, just over 33 per cent more in 1984.

His salary, revealed in the annual report and inclusive of performance related bonus, rose from £150,112 to £200,371 in a year that saw BAT's taxable profits surge from £379m to £1.41bn.

Profits for 1984 were nearly £100m above most City estimates with a change in the accounting policy for BAT's insurance subsidiary, Eagle Star, boosting the results by 198m.

In BAT's annual report, the auditors say that the financial statements in relation to the insurance subsidiaries comply with the Companies Acts 1948 to 1981.

Mr Sheehy's rise follows a 68 per cent increase for ICI's chairman, Mr John Harvey-Jones, and a 44 per cent increase for Sir Owen Green, chairman of BTR.

A study on top management remuneration published last month and sponsored by Charterhouse, the banking and investment group, showed that base pay for directors and senior managers in the UK continued to rise by about 10 per cent a year over the last six months.

At that time, Mr Sheehy was the third highest paid chairman behind the men heading the oil majors, Shell Transport and British Petroleum.

There were also increases in 1984 for the other BAT board members. Six directors, including the chairman, earned over £120,000 each, compared with two in the previous year.

The annual general meeting will be held on May 18, at 11.30 am, at St John's Smith Square, Westminster SW1.

Amari sheds extrusion business in £7.5m deal

BY LIONEL BARBER

Amari, one of the leading independent UK aluminium manufacturers, has completed in principle the sale of its extrusion business, Century Aluminium, to Ardal of Sandvik Verk (ASV), the state-owned Norwegian producer in a deal worth around £7.5m.

The disposal allows Amari to concentrate on its metal and plastics stockholding and distribution business in the UK, the Continent and North America.

Under the deal, ASV has paid £4.2m in cash, which includes repayment of a £2.2m parent company loan. An additional £300,000 may become payable depending on Century's profits for the two years to December 31, 1986. The sale also relieves Amari of Century's external debt which currently amounts to around £2.2m.

Century made £765,000 pre-tax profits to the end of 1984, while its net asset value amounted to £240,000 net of the £2.2m parent company loan. It operates two plants at Sanderstead, Dunsfold and Birtley, Tyne and Wear.

Mr Christopher Roper, Century's managing director, is to resign from the Amari board but will remain as managing director at Century. Mr John Pither, Amari's managing director, will continue to serve as a non-executive director of Century.

Hill Samuel offshoot to strengthen U.S. coverage

Noble Lowndes and Partners, the employee benefit consultancy and personal financial services subsidiary of merchant bankers Hill Samuel Group, is seeking to purchase for the new Jersey-based employee benefit consultancy firm The Becker Company.

Discussions are at an advanced stage, but Hill Samuel is not prepared to reveal the size of the transaction.

Noble Lowndes has a strong presence in the UK employee benefit field and is relatively strong in the Irish Republic and Australia.

Many multinational firms now require their employee benefit consultants to provide an international service. This requires firms to have a strong presence worldwide. Many UK employee benefit firms have established operations in the U.S., the Far East and other important areas.

Noble Lowndes is pursuing a policy of selective expansion of its operations both in the UK and overseas.

Becker has a large number of clients, but mainly in the small business area. It is expected to produce pre-tax profits in the year to October 31 1984 of some US\$2.42m and for the current year some \$2.6m pre-tax. Its tangible assets amount to US\$2m.

Noble Lowndes in the last financial year had pre-tax profits of \$5m—\$2.2m after tax.

Highlights from the Statement by Edwin W. Phillips MBE, Chairman of Friends' Provident Life Office.

Strong International Growth at Friends' Provident

Strong Growth

Boosted by strong growth overseas, Group income exceeded £500 million and Group Investments passed the £2½ billion mark in 1984. Our investment reserve grew by £66m to £715m.

Territorial analysis of 1984 sales

	New annual premium	New single premium
United Kingdom	£50.4m	£33.0m
Republic of Ireland	IRE 4.0m	IRE 33.3m
Australia	A\$ 11.9m	A\$ 18.1m
Canada	C\$ 7.2m	C\$ 71.4m

New unique Unit Trust

The Stewardship Unit Trust was officially launched on 1st June last year. It is innovative, being the first Unit Trust to have gained Department of Trade and Industry approval for an investment policy based on the philosophy of selecting investments for the long-term benefit they bring to the community. The novel concept has attracted much press coverage and the trust's investment performance to date has compared favourably with the indices.

Bonus Declaration

The record bonus rates in the UK, give our with-profit policyholders an excellent return on their savings. I am particularly pleased that part of the capital appreciation in our investment funds has been passed on to our policyholders in the permanent form of special reversionary bonuses. We have a stronger investment reserve than most other Life Offices. We have raised our rate of terminal bonus on life policies to pass on further amounts of capital appreciation to beneficiaries where policies have run their full course or become claims through death. I cannot over-emphasise the importance of careful selection of a Life Office by those intending to buy with-profit life assurance. Most of our business is sold through independent professional advisers who appreciate the need to examine the strength of the asset position of the companies whose products they are recommending.

Viewdata

Our lead in viewdata technology continued to play an important role in our market development last year. By the end of the year over 600 intermediaries were using their own terminals to obtain quotations and, perhaps more importantly, information about their existing customers' policies through our Frontal system.

Portable Pensions

Nothing we have seen so far has led us to believe the Government's proposals will do anything but harm to the structure and security of private pension schemes. The problems faced by early leavers will be improved once the current Social Security Bill becomes law. I believe the Government should be content that they have resolved the major issue.

Financial Services

We welcome the White Paper proposals for the rationalisation of marketing rules for Financial Services. There is one aspect of the White Paper though which causes us unease. Professor Gower doubted the practicability of meaningful disclosure of commissions. We must hope that the Government will drop the idea from their supervisory proposals, or at least accept the Gower recommendation that any disclosure requirement should include the activity of bed agents.

Republic of Ireland

The most notable feature of our year's trading in Ireland was the launch of our new range of unitised investment funds and linked life policies. The response to the launch was tremendous, with over IR£25 million being subscribed within the first few months.

Australia

New single premiums were more than doubled at A\$18.1m but perhaps more pleasing was the increase of almost one third in new annual premiums including a substantial increase in new ordinary life assurance business. 1984 saw the launch of our first Australian unit linked products and further development of the advanced Lifenet system, which mirrors our UK technology in the support of agents and brokers.

Canada

In Canada too we achieved pleasing trading results with new single premiums up by one third. A healthy increase in new individual ordinary business was offset by a reduction in group life and group accident and health annual premiums where we are restructuring the portfolio. The legal and physical amalgamation of our two subsidiaries, Fidelity Life and Seaboard Life, is almost complete.

Investments

In the U.K. Main Fund approximately two thirds of the cash flow was invested in equities. Major structural changes were made in both the U.S. and Japanese portfolios. A feature has been the partial hedging of the U.S. portfolios. With a rapidly strengthening dollar we felt it prudent to lock in part of the currency gains by forward sales of the dollar against sterling and the yen. Further rationalisation was achieved in our substantial property portfolio. We were very honoured and pleased that Her Majesty the Queen opened the Ashley Centre at Epsom in October.

Conclusion

I remain convinced that the demand for specialist financial services will continue to increase and that our prime objective should still be to provide high value insurance products backed by the best possible service. I am most grateful to our staff for their efforts in 1984 towards achieving this aim and to our intermediary friends for their support.

To Company Secretary, Friends' Provident Life Office, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1QA. Please send a copy of the Report and Accounts for the year 1984 to:

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Friends' Provident

A member of the Life Offices' Association

Friends' Provident Life Office, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1QA. Telephone 0306 885053. Established 1832. Incorporated by Act of Parliament in the United Kingdom with limited liability. Sums assured in UK exceed £7,000m.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange



Queens Moat Houses P.L.C.

(Incorporated in England No. 41 0837)

Rights issue of 26,069,949 7 per cent. Convertible Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of £1 each at par

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted to the Official List the above-mentioned Convertible Preference Shares

Particulars of the Convertible Preference Shares are available in the Statistical Services of Ertel Statistical Services Limited. Copies of the Circular to Shareholders dated 2nd April, 1985 may be obtained from the Company Announcements Office, The Stock Exchange, Throgmorton Street, London EC2P 2BT, for 2 days from the date of this notice and, during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted), 14 days from the date of this announcement from:

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National Westminster Bank PLC
New Issues Department
PO Box 79
2 Princes Street
London EC2P 2BD

25th April, 1985

UK COMPANY NEWS

Ellis profits reach £3.6m as Dash growth continues

CURRENTLY trading at 170 locations, the Dash range of leisurewear at Ellis and Goldstein (Holdings), garment maker and retailer, continued its rapid growth and helped profits to expand from £2.5m to a record £3.6m pre-tax for the year ended February 2 1985. And the final dividend is boosted by 20 per cent.

The directors say the division selling the Eastex and Dereta brands of garments has substantially increased both turnover and profits, while real progress was made in supplying multiple and chain store customers. Strong design and range development for their individual markets give confidence for the future.

While directors look forward to a further improvement in profits for the current year, they say they cannot, with Dash in a more mature stage, expect the rate of growth of the past two years to be maintained.

Turnover for the 1984-85 year was boosted from £47.9m to £64m and was split between wholesale £22.07m (£18.25m) and retail £41.93m (£32.69m). After tax up from £950,000 to £1.45m earnings per 15p share are shown as 8.2p against 6.1p.

The dividend for the year totals 23p with a 1.45p final which will be paid on capital to be increased by a one-for-four scrip.

The directors point out that the Dash locations include 15 Dash Man, 40 Young Dash and stand-alone shops in six towns. The age appeal of Young Dash has been widened, they state, and further stand-alone shops are planned as are 20 more units within stores.

The directors say that funding the group's increased activity and accelerating capital investment is reflected in the balance sheet by a cash outflow of £2.7m. Pre-tax figure was after £148,000 (£98,000) for the employee share scheme. After the tax charge, and an extraordinary dividend—deferred tax of £354,000 last time, the attributable balance came through well ahead from £336,000 to £2.1m.

comment

Not surprisingly Ellis and Goldstein has been deserted by some of its long standing income orientated shareholders. A yield of 4.2 per cent no longer provides the dividend return which was the main attraction of buying the shares until a couple of

years ago. But even though the stock has performed well for the capital growth funds which have moved onto the share register the return is still on the modest side. The price has risen by 50 per cent over the last twelve months but that has just kept pace with earnings growth. The group's performance has been transformed by Dash and its sporty fashion clothes lines but that business is actually maturing fast. The 20 or 30 new outlets that are planned are no more than filling in the gaps on the map. Yet if profits are no longer mushrooming the shares still deserve something a little better than a prospective p/e of 8 at 90p—and that assumes just £4m pre-tax this year, which is surely on the conservative side.

Nottingham Mfg.

Nottingham Manufacturing, the bosley and knitwear group, has bought 2.3m of its own shares, representing about 2.8 per cent of the share capital, at prices between 208p and 210p. Nottingham closed last night at 216p, up 10p on the day.

Jeweller set for USM quote

Abbeycrest is set to become the first jewellery company quoted on the USM.

Brokers Schaverien are bringing the Leeds-based group to the market in the middle of next month by means of a placing which is likely to give the company a market value of about £5m.

Founded in 1979, Abbeycrest designs a wide range of set gold jewellery which it sells to wholesalers, multiple retailers and mail order houses. Sales are now running at over £7m a year.

The company concentrates on the inexpensive end of the jewellery market—selling gold earrings which retail for up to £10 a pair, for example.

It says it has achieved increased profits every year and in its prospectus it will be forecasting further profits growth in 1985.

"The company has succeeded by applying modern techniques to a fragmented and traditional industry," say the brokers.

The prospectus is likely to be published on May 14, and dealings are expected to start at the end of the month.

Plummeting home computer prices cut Spectrum profits

PLUMMETING retail prices in home computers, plus the cost of handling what the directors describe as an inordinately high level of returned family merchandise in pre-tax figures at the interim stage at Spectrum Group. For the six months to end of 1984 profits tumbled from £1.1m to £75,000, on turnover ahead from £34.8m to £35.48m.

They go on to say that the seasonally less active second half "will continue to reflect the difficult conditions."

Although the directors say that actions taken to correct the trading position of this USM company are unlikely to have a material effect on second half results, benefits from rationalisation, and improved product line, should be more significant later in 1985.

Accordingly they say they have decided to review dividend policy when results for the current financial year are available. Half-time earnings per share are shown as 4p and there is no interim dividend.

Spectrum distributes home computers, peripherals, software and associated products, and

photographic equipment. Results suffered from losses of £23,000 on continuing new activities, which are under review.

Against a background of widespread market regression, the directors say it would have been imprudent not to have made a critical review of stocks and debtors. This review has delayed publication of interim figures and has resulted in substantial additional provisions against the value of current assets.

Gross profits came out at £2.45m (£2.14m) from which selling, distribution and administration and interest took £2.23m (£1.09m). There were exceptional credits last time of £100,000. Profits were subject to tax of £37,000 (£588,000) and extraordinary debits this time of £157,000.

The extraordinary items were the cost of non-continuing operations less tax, including provisions for write-off of the residual values of assets after the end of 1984 as follows: Microend home computer servicing company £125,000; Statesoft (purchase of U.S. software licence) £32,000.

MINING NEWS

De Beers expecting diamond sales to resume rising trend

BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

IN HIS new role as chairman of De Beers Consolidated Mines Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson tells shareholders that he takes a hopeful view of the outlook for the South African diamond group.

Pointing to last year's 6 per cent rise in retail sales of diamond jewellery to a record level (they climbed 19 per cent in the important U.S. market) he says in his annual statement that if the world economy continues to grow "the stage is well set for sales of (uncut) diamonds to resume their rising trend."

He supports this view by saying that while the group's unsold diamond stocks rose from \$936m in 1980 to \$1,951m last year, the strength of retail sales in the period resulted in diamond stocks at the cutting centres falling by nearly \$5bn, or "five times as much as the rise in our own stocks."

Stocks in the hands of jewellery manufacturers and retailers have also fallen significantly. Mr Ogilvie Thompson adds that at the first three months of 1985—the principal selling occasions for rough stones—"there was a welcome indication of interest in a wider range of diamonds and sales of the larger sizes increased."

The market for industrial diamonds, synthetic and natural, remains good and now absorbs about 150m carats a year in the non-Communist world.

At least 80 per cent of this total is represented by synthetic diamonds but the improvement in demand for the natural material is seen as encouraging for the big Argyle diamond mining operation in Western Australia.

Its output is due to be sharply boosted to an annual rate of some 25m carats—the bulk being industrial material—when the big AK1 pipe starts production early next year. Plans for the marketing of the Argyle output are being developed. Major partners in the



Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson

venture are CRA (56.8 per cent) and Ashton Mining (38.2 per cent).

Meanwhile the diamond market has not let out of the wood and De Beers is still having to stockpile the larger and more expensive stones. Because diamonds are priced in dollars, the strength of that currency last year increased prices outside the U.S. and thus dampened non-U.S. demand.

It also boosted the real value of the stock by R1.38bn to R3.88bn and raised the cost to De Beers of servicing those dollar loans needed to finance the stock.

However, Mr Ogilvie Thompson who took over as chairman from Mr Harry Oppenheimer, who remains a director, says that borrowings remain well within the total facilities available to the group.

The recent fall in the value of the dollar will be helpful in many ways to De Beers. But it will also mean a corresponding fall in the gains on conversion of dollar revenue into the rand, a major factor in the rise of 28 per cent to R677.7m in group earnings last year.

CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED

3½ MILLION FAMILIES BENEFIT FROM CIS PROGRESS

Extracts from the Report of the Chairman, Mr D. J. Wise, to the Annual Meeting on 24th April, 1985.

Investments

"At the end of 1984, the total market value of the Society's investments was £3,650 million. Of the increase of \$500 million over the figure for the end of 1983, just over £160 million represented new investments over the year, the balance of around £340 million resulting from the rise in market values of investments.

Life Assurance

"I am pleased this year to announce improvements in the form of our reversionary bonuses for assurances and further substantial improvements in our terminal bonuses. These improvements follow a complete revision during the last 12 months of our ranges of Ordinary and Industrial section assurance policies, including new and highly competitive premium rates. Together these changes in premium rates and bonuses will enable us to offer a very attractive range of life assurance products appropriate to modern conditions.

Motor and Household Insurance

"In the general insurance field there have been signs that many insurers have realised that they could not continue to

RESULTS FOR 1984

- * Total premium income up from £466m to £507m.
- * Investment income up from £174m to £201m.
- * Life premium income up from £267m to £296m.
- * £150 million surplus to life policyholders—record payouts on maturing policies.
- * Property premium income up from £115m to £125m.
- * Motor premium income up from £66m to £68m.
- * £11 million profit on non-life business despite adverse conditions.
- * Low expense ratios further reduced.

companies, our own premium rates have become progressively more competitive, and our policyholders are increasingly reaping the benefit of our efficient administration which ensures that a relatively small proportion of the premiums is absorbed in expenses and commission.

"After two consecutive years in which the motor premium income had decreased, it is gratifying to see the start of a recovery in this account. Despite the generally competitive level of our premium rates during 1984, the recovery has been very gradual, but towards the end of the year there were encouraging signs of an increase in the number of vehicles insured.

"The claims experience on household insurance was much worse in 1984 than in 1983. Widespread storms in January 1984 caused extensive damage to homes and other property; the exceptionally warm summer has led to a further increase in the number of claims for damage caused by subsidence; and there has once again been an increase in the number of theft claims."

All profits to policyholders—personal home service too

* The CIS is one of the country's leading insurance companies. Helping to protect some 3½ million families in the UK (one family in six) the Society has one of the highest penetrations of households in the personal insurance market. There are 14 million life, home and motor insurances currently in force.

* An important factor in achieving competitive premium levels is the CIS's low level of operational expenses, which, per policy, are amongst the very lowest in the insurance industry.

* The CIS is firmly committed to the personal 'home service' method of transacting insurance, which it believes to be the best, most efficient, and most economical way of providing for the day-to-day insurance needs of the nation's families. CIS full-time agents provide a much appreciated personal service in the homes of policyholders, collecting premiums, advising on insurance requirements and helping with claims when they arise.

* The CIS is one of the country's most successful consumer co-operative societies, marketing its popular and very competitive range of insurances on a truly co-operative basis—and giving good value for money. All profits are devoted to policyholders after making the necessary reserves to carry on the business.

3½ million families feel secure with

CIS

CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED

Chief Office:
Miller Street,
Manchester M60 0AL
Tel: 061-832 8686

GLEESON

Civil Engineering and Building Contracting
Residential and Commercial Property Development

Interim Statement

Unaudited results of the Group for the half year ended 31st December, 1984

	Half-year to 31st December 1984	Half-year to 31st December 1983	Year to 30th June 1984
Turnover	30,723	35,131	70,404
Trading profit	1,010	769	1,794
Rent and interest	1,049	1,142	2,604
Profit before tax	2,059	1,911	4,398
Tax	950	751	1,855
Profit after tax	1,109	1,160	2,543
Extraordinary items	—	—	383
Dividends	1,109	1,160	2,160
Profit retained	150	143	495
Earnings per share	11.09p	11.60p	25.43p
Interim dividend	1.50p	1.43p	—

* Despite the certainty of lower levels of turnover (as a result of the acute shortage of civil engineering and public works contracts), the results for the full year are expected to show an improvement.

* Interim dividend increased from 1.43p per share to 1.50p per share.

Copies of the full interim report are available from The Secretary, M. J. Gleeson Group plc, Hareton House, London Road, North Cheam, Surrey SM3 9BS

BASE LENDING RATES

A.B.N. Bank	13%	C. Hoare & Co.	12½%
Allied Irish Bank	12½%	Hongkong & Shanghai	12½%
Amro Bank	13%	Johnson Matthey Bank	12½%
Associates Cap. Corp.	14%	Knowles & Co. Ltd.	13%
Banco de Bilbao	12½%	Lloyds Bank	12½%
Bank Hapoalim	12½%	Edward Mannion & Co.	14%
BCCI	12½%	Mephris & Sons Ltd.	12½%
Bank of Ireland	12½%	Midland Bank	12½%
Bank of Cyprus	12½%	Morgan Grenfell	12½%
Bank of India	12½%	Mount-Credit Corp. Ltd.	12½%
Bank of Scotland	12½%	National Bk. of Kuwait	12½%
Banque Paribas	12½%	National Girobank	12½%
Barclays Bank	12½%	National Westminster	12½%
Beneficial Trust Ltd.	13%	Northern Bank Ltd.	13%
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	12½%	Norwich Cen. Trust	12½%
CI. Bank Nederland	12½%	People's Trust	14%
Canada Permanent	13%	Provincial Trust Ltd.	13%
Cayzer Ltd.	12½%	R. Raphael & Sons	12½%
Cedar Holdings	14%	Roxburgh Guarantees	13½%
Charterhouse Capital	13%	Royal Bank of Scotland	12½%
Choulatons	12½%	Royal Trust Co. Canada	12½%
Citibank NA	12½%	Henry Schroder Wagg	12½%
Citibank Savings	12½%	Standard Chartered	12½%
Clydesdale Bank	12½%	TCE	12½%
C. E. Coates & Co. Ltd.	13½%	Trustee Savings Bank	12½%
Comm. Bk. N. East	13%	United Bank of Kuwait	12½%
Consolidated Credits	13½%	United Mizrahi Bank	12½%
Co-operative Bank	12½%	Westpac Banking Corp.	13%
The Cyprus Popular Bk.	12½%	Willesley Laidlaw	13½%
Dunbar & Co. Ltd.	12½%	Williams & Glyn's	12½%
Dunlop Finance	13%	Winttrust Secs. Ltd.	12½%
E. T. Trust	13%	Yorkshire Bank	12½%
Exeter Trust Ltd.	14%		
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	14%		
First Nat. Secs. Ltd.	14%		
Robert Fleming & Pines	13½%		
Robert Fraser & Pines	13½%		
Guinness Mahon	12½%		
Hambros Bank	12½%		
Heritable & Gen. Trust	12½%		
Hill Samuel	12½%		

* 7 day deposits 9½%, 1 month 10½%, 3 month 11½%, 6 month 12½%, 12 month 13½%. At call when £10,000+ remains deposited.
* Call deposits £1,000 and over 8½% gross.
* 21-day deposits over £1,000 10½%.
* Mortgage bank rate.
* See Provincial Trust Ltd.
* Demand deposits 9½%.

UK COMPANY NEWS

L & G managed funds top £10bn

Legal and General Group, Britain's second largest life company, reports total funds under management at the end of 1984 to have reached £10.4bn.

The main long-term fund at £5.1bn accounted for almost half of the figure, while managed funds at £2.4bn for another quarter. The group's recent move into segregated pension fund management has reached £1.1bn of funds.

Net new money invested in the UK fund last year amounted to £225m, of which £145m was invested in fixed interest securities (including £12m of index-linked gilts), mainly to match the fund's monetary liabilities.

A further £54m was invested in UK equities and £26m in overseas equities, a major part being in the U.S. some £20m was invested in property—£22m on improvements to existing properties and £28m on developments and new acquisitions.

At the end of 1984, the UK gilt portfolio at £1.7bn accounted for one-third of the main £5.1bn UK equities at £1.4bn accounted for more than a quarter, while property at £1.4bn

was slightly higher proportion. Overseas equities were valued at £300m.

As already reported, pre-tax profits for the year fell from £35.6m to £48.1m, following underwriting losses on the general insurance and re-insurance business climbing from £25m to £41.6m.

The report reveals that the UK general insurance operations had an underwriting loss of £18.2m—more than double that for 1983. The deterioration came in the group's substantial household account, which suffered £2m of storm claims early in the year and high levels of subsidence claims in the autumn—the latter being a cause for concern to both Legal and General and to all other property insurers.

Equity and Law Life Assurance Society reports a rise of over £24m in its long-term business assets last year to £2.51bn at the end of 1984.

Premium income during the year rose from £217m to £262m in the investment income from £122m to £144m. Claim payments rose from £116m to £133m and

management expenses from £37m to £22m.

During the year, its main fund the Society invested £23m in UK gilts and £21m in other fixed interest securities. It invested just £14m in UK equities and £26m in overseas equities. It made no investment in UK property and £3m in overseas property. The report for 1984 states that it felt UK property prices were relatively high during the year.

Britannic Assurance reports a £51m increase in its industrial life funds in 1984 to £504m and a £27m increase in its ordinary branch funds to £250m. Thus total life funds during 1984 rose by £77m to £754m.

Premium income in the industrial branch rose by 7.5 per cent to £33m, with the expense ratio dropping from 40.5 per cent to 38.7 per cent. In the ordinary branch, premium income climbed nearly 14 per cent to £30m, while the expense ratio fell slightly from 29.9 per cent to 29.0 per cent.

As already reported, surplus for 1984 was nearly £900,000, higher at £1.2m in 1983. The improvement in life profits

was diluted by a worsening in the company's general insurance operations.

On the general insurance account, the report shows that underwriting losses climbed from £1.96m in 1983 to £3.1m last year. The main cause of the problems lies in the property account, which was affected by storms and subsidence and also by the rising number of thefts. The companies motor account provided a loss of £115,000 against an underwriting profit of £178,000 in 1983. The account was hit by rising numbers of claims towards the end of the year.

The company has now increased premium rates on its home and motor insurance policies, but warns that it will take some time for these measures to have their full impact.

The company took the view on its investments that equity yields were lower than it would have liked. It rearranged its equity portfolio investing just £8.3m of new money in this sector compared with £36.6m in UK gilts and £2m in its U.S. equity portfolio.

Gleeson profits hold up despite fall in turnover

ALTHOUGH turnover fell from £35.13m to £30.73m at M. J. Gleeson for the year ended 31 December 1984, taxable profits rose by £148,000 to £206m.

These figures confirmed the board's expectation that the group, a civil engineer, building contractor and property developer, would have its profits supported by final account settlements on completed contracts. Good results from the residential estate development programme, and non-trading income.

Regarding current trading and future prospects, the directors expect that results for the full year will show an improvement despite the certainty of lower turnover. Looking further ahead they say that the board will intensify its policy of reducing overheads as turnover declines. There is no sign of any lessening

of the acute shortage of civil engineering and public works contracts, so in short-term prospects will depend increasingly on the results of the group's property investment programme.

In these circumstances, although stated net earnings are shown lower at £110.9p (11.6p) per 10p share, the directors feel that the interim distribution should be £1.00m, or 10p, raising the interim dividend from 1.40p to 1.50p. For the year to June 1984 a total of 4.95p was paid on the ordinary shares.

The pre-tax figure this time consisted of higher trading profit of £1.01m (£789,000), and rental income lower at £1.05m (£1.14m).

Tax amounted to £950,000 against £751,000 and retained profit emerged down at £286,000 (£1,020m).

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

In a further step implementing its policy of concentrating on packaging and plastics, high performance textiles, and selected electronic and electrical products, Low and Bonar is initially spending £2.5m on purchasing a 51 per cent interest in Carolina Formed Fabrics Corporation. There is provision for a further £1.5m outlay depending on profit. The U.S. company is said to have a rapidly expanding customer base which includes many of the leading American consumer product companies. Low and Bonar will begin looking immediately at a project to build a similar plant, possibly in Dundee.

Morgan Crucible says that 93.5 per cent of the 11,578,280 shares offered by way of rights have been taken up. Excess shares have been sold and the proceeds of some £4.288p per share will be distributed to shareholders entitled thereto.

NET PROFITS at Scottish Cities Investment Trust, which is managed by Sea Brothers, improved from £267,000 to £312,000 for the six months to the end of March 1985. Tax came to £218,000 against £211,000. Earnings per share were shown as rising from 8.9p to 12.4p and the interim dividend has been raised from 4p to 6p. In the last full year a total of 14.5p was paid. Net asset value per ordinary and "A" non-voting share came to 58.34 (£4.94).

English National Investment increased attributable profits from £170,566 to £199,895 in the year to end-March 1985. Net asset value per preferred and deferred shares at the year end amounted to 176.1p (adjusted 163.9p) and 161.1p (adjusted 78.9p) respectively.

The final dividend on the preferred shares is 4.6p, making an effective total of 7.7p. Deferred ordinary holders will receive a 2.15p payment, making an effective 2.89p.

As expected, British Rayphane recovered somewhat in the second half and returned a profit of £1.68m for the whole of 1984, against £1.72m.

Turnover of the company, which is owned by UCB SA (Belgium) and makes and converts cellulose and oriented poly-

propylene film, expanded from £35.58m to £59.23m. After tax £257,000 (£224,000) and extraordinary profits of £291,000 (£1.8m) the available profit for the year was £1.14m (£1.58m, 1983).

The subsidiary British Slade, also showed some recovery and averaged £1.10m (£1.05m) of £1.46m, compared with £1.7m (£1.73m). Turnover came to £37.98m (£37.34m).

After tax £1,000 (£195,000), and extraordinary profits of £291,000 (£1.8m), the attributable profit comes to £1.45m (£2,000).

The Consolidated Venture Trust is holding its dividend at 0.8p for the year ended January 1985. The directors are warned that for the current year it is likely to be reduced to a nominal amount.

Gross income for 1984 fell from £712,000 to £310,000. But without the charge of £448,000 for foreign currency loan interest the revenue before tax is £111,000 (£175,000). Current income is also lower at £1.1m (£1.1m) revenue will not be maintained for the current year.

At January 31 the net asset value worked out at 137p per ordinary share, against 112p a year earlier.

Laurentian Asset Management will be solely concerned with the investment management and administration of British Empire Securities and General Trust and will not be responsible for the management of Imperial Life Assurance Company of Canada's other investments in London, as was stated in yesterday's edition. Laurentian is a subsidiary of Imperial Life.

R. Smallshaw (Railwear) improved pre-tax profits by 50p to 1.75p per share in 1984, and the directors are to recommend a 0.5p increase in the final dividend to 1.75p per share, for a total of 2.5p against 1.75p.

Taxable profits rose to £310,231 against £207,818 on turnover of £9.11m (£7.45m). Tax accounted for £89,893 (£13,793).

After an extraordinary provision for deferred tax, less ACT written off, of £54,508 (£11), attributable profit was £106,500 (£289,068).

Earnings per share are stated at nil (7.56p) after diluted tax charge, and 8.65p (6.53p) after full tax charge.

APPOINTMENTS

Management restructure at Wedgwood

WEDGWOOD introduces on May 1 a new senior management organisation: a new board of Josiah Wedgwood and Sons, the principal subsidiary company will be formed with Sir Arthur Bryan (chairman), Mr James Moffat (managing), Mr Frederick de Castelnau (sales), Mr W. Eric Dams (finance), Mr Christopher J. Johnson (production), Mr Robert Minkla (design), Mr Fred Shaw (management services), Mr Fred Shaw (management services), Mr R. John Shuffelsham (industrial relations), and Mr George Stoddard (secretary). The managing directors of the various divisions of Josiah Wedgwood and Sons and Wedgwood Marketing will constitute an executive board under the chairmanship of Mr Moffat. This board will include: Mr Charles Dean — Mason's Ironstone; Mr Robert L. Johnson — Creative Tableware; Mr Barbara Mankowitz — Wedgwood Retail; Mr John Ryan — Fine Earthenware; Mr Roy Wadland; Mr Richard H. Ware — Wedgwood Pottery; and Mr Colin Wright — Wedgwood Rooms.

acial director. He was appointed company secretary last year. WINCHESTER BOWLING has appointed Mr R. E. Bearman, Mr N. C. Frankland, Mrs V. Fenn and Mr I. Wicks assistant directors from May 1.

REEVES BROWN ASSOCIATES has made the following board appointments: Mr Ralph Hart is to become chairman and Mr Timothy Evans, previously an actuary at Wm. M. Mercer NPA, together with Mr William Gill became directors.

THE MANUFACTURERS' LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY (UK) has appointed Mr Joseph R. Monney as vice president and deputy general manager, UK operations (formerly assistant general manager, Mr Richard Bowles as investment vice president; Mr John Gregory as assistant general manager, operations; and Mr Derek Williams as assistant general manager, finance, and actuary for the UK.

London as a senior chemical analyst responsible for coverage of the major UK and continental chemical companies as well as the European operations of major U.S. chemical companies. For the past six years he has covered the European chemical industry from London for Kidder Peabody where he was a vice-president.

From May 1 Mr N. W. C. Carter and Mr D. E. Hughes are appointed directors of FEN CHURCH SCOTT REINSURANCE BROKERS. Mr P. L. McArthur retires on April 30.

Mr Raymond Miquel has been appointed visiting professor in business development at GLASGOW UNIVERSITY, department of management studies, from May 1. He is chairman and chief executive of Arthur Bell & Sons, chairman of Canning Town Glass, Townmaster Transport, and Glenageles Hotels.

Mr Kenneth Thomas, who has been trading as an independent shipping consultant, is joining the maritime consultancy of LEV SYCHRAVA ASSOCIATES as senior associate on May 1.

Mr C. J. Pampush becomes senior partner of WISE SPEKE & CO., Newcastle, stockbrokers, on April 29, succeeding Mr P. J. Orde, who, with Mr C. F. Boys-Stones and Mr A. R. Oliver are retiring from partnership. Mr P. Cooper, Mr J. W. Wardle and Mr A. M. G. Arkwright become partners and Mrs M. A. Myers becomes an associate. Mr T. A. Wilson retires.

President of the AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION for 1985-86 is Mr F. P. D. Moore, agricultural adviser to Howard Rotavator Co.

Mr E. J. (Eddie) Sims, associate director, the General Electric Company, has been elected the 1985-86 president of BEAMA, the federation of British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Associations.

SWAN HOUSEWARES has appointed Mr Charles Maircroft as manufacturing director and Mr Fred Hackett as purchasing director.

Mr Tony Church has joined the MERRILL LYNCH International research department in RANSOMES SIMS & JEFFERIES has appointed Mr Kelt

DEREK CROUCH has appointed Mr Ian George as financial director.

1984—a strong demand for our protection and support services

	1984	1983
Premiums Written	£57.67m	£44.64m
Profit after tax	£1.98m	£0.86m
Shareholders' Funds	£31.04m	£24.06m

Extracts from Mr. P. R. Dugdale's Statement to Shareholders

On the three underwriting accounts open in 1984, premiums written totalled £57,671,937 (1983 — £44,637,396), an increase of 29.2%. The 1982 underwriting account reflects the upturn from the depths of the recent recession and the loss reported last year in the closure of the 1981 account.

Results and Dividends
The 1982 underwriting account produced a profit of £1,168,026 (1981 — loss £112,594). After adding investment income of £2,446,866, allocating £55,596 to the UK Employee Share Scheme and charging taxation of £1,576,351, the net profit for the year was £1,982,945.

The Directors have decided to recommend a final dividend of 4.68800 pence making a total of 8.43840 pence, an increase of 12.5%.

General

A year ago I spoke of the gradual spread of economic recovery in this country from the consumer-orientated trades to the investment goods sector and this process continued throughout 1984. Excluding the mining sector and related industries which were affected by the dispute in the coal industry the economy went ahead in line with expectations. As our portfolio of policies has virtually no mining or energy content, the growth in turnovers of our policyholders was, on average, well

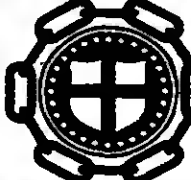
above that of the overall economy. The value of transactions we insured in the UK in 1984 grew by about 26%, falling just short of £19 billion, and our world-wide turnover increased to £21.9 billion.

Business failures continued at record levels in 1984, and so far in 1985, there are no signs of any improvement in the situation. Industries particularly affected last year were building & construction and the home computer industry.

Prospects

As we moved into 1985 we saw interest rates jump by 4½ points in a matter of weeks. We at Trade Indemnity are conscious of past experience of the immediate impact of such movements on the business community, whose borrowings are directly geared to current market rates. Bearing in mind the prevailing level of insolvencies, this does not augur well for failure experience in the months ahead.

It seems right to assume that earlier increases in premium rates, whilst continuing to show through in the open underwriting accounts, will be making a lower contribution than hitherto to our premium growth. The reduction should, however, be more than offset by the effects of higher input prices and by a further expansion in the turnovers of our policyholders. We shall also be looking again in new business for a substantial part of our growth in 1985.



Copies of the Report and Accounts for 1984 are available from The Secretary, Trade Indemnity House, 13-34 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3AX

Trade Indemnity plc

Underwriters of credit insurance since 1918

United Kingdom Trade Indemnity plc: Branch Offices: Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Cambridge, Glasgow, London, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Reading, Australia Trade Indemnity Australia Limited: Office Melbourne, Sydney

As expected, British Rayphane recovered somewhat in the second half and returned a profit of £1.68m for the whole of 1984, against £1.72m.

Turnover of the company, which is owned by UCB SA (Belgium) and makes and converts cellulose and oriented poly-

Earnings per share are stated at nil (7.56p) after diluted tax charge, and 8.65p (6.53p) after full tax charge.

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G R A N A D A · H T V · L W T · S C O T T I S H

You're about to learn something odd about Economic theory.
It doesn't work in practice.

Take the British commercial TV system; it's based on only *one* network. The American TV system, by contrast, is based on a selection of networks.

And yet British TV gives advertisers better value for money.

To understand how we've turned an Economics law on its head, you need to look at this particular example, of us versus the U.S., in greater detail.

Let's play oligopoly.

In New York, viewers have an excellent choice of channels. There are 3 affiliated networks, 3 Independents, 2 Spanish stations, 2 UHF channels, and 1 Public Broadcast non-commercial station.

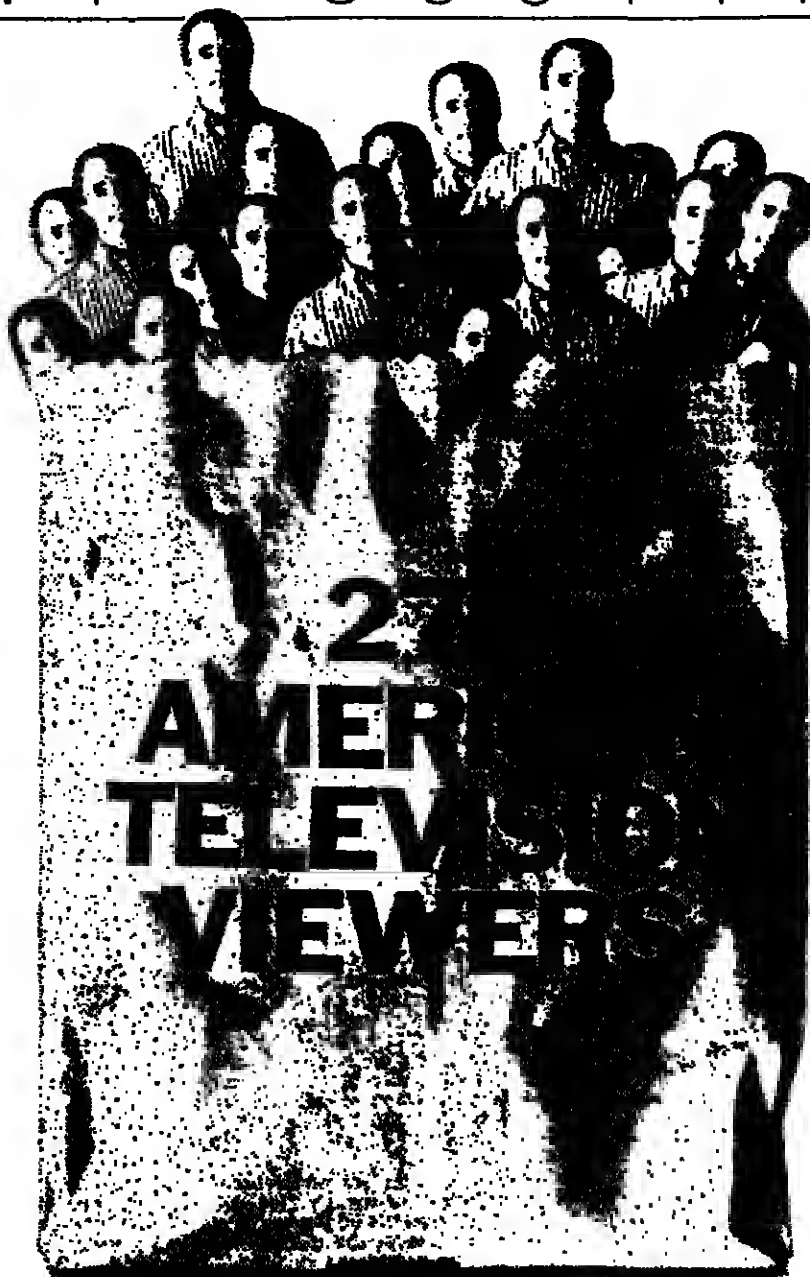
Loosely speaking, this is the equivalent of having ITV 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 – and BBC 1.

You'd think that this embarrassment of riches would make airtime less expensive.

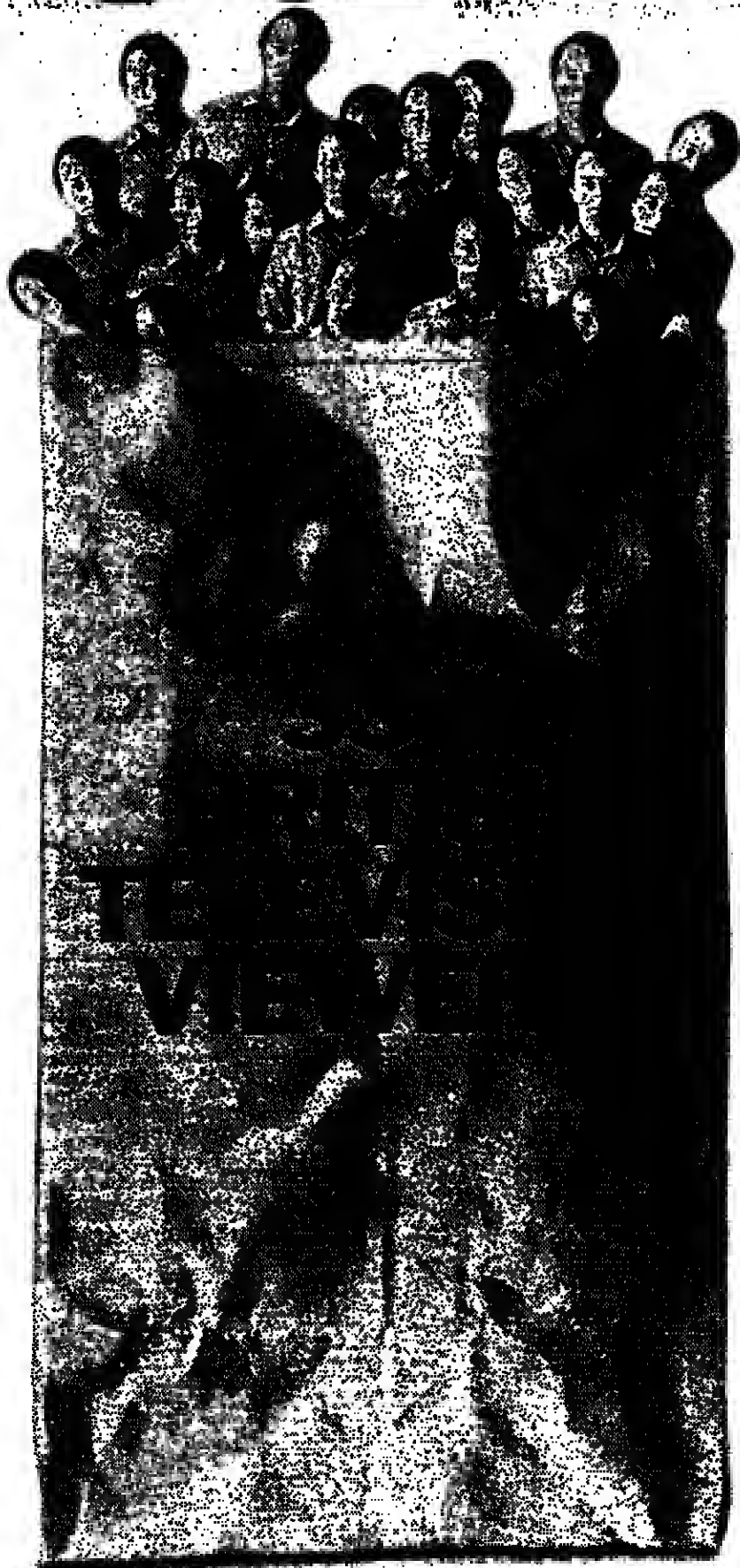
But, in 1984, their average Adult Cost per Thousand was £3.71*.

The comparative figure in Britain was only £3.00.

* 1984 AVERAGE EXCHANGE RATE OF £1 = \$1.55



What can you buy for £1?



This is because all those competing U.S. channels are chasing after one, finite, audience.

So the audience fragments, and it becomes harder to reach. Which is very different from what happens in Britain.

Arfur talks to 'alf the country.

In Britain, a programme like Minder is watched by half the TV audience in the country. (Which may explain why we never see 'Er Indoors; she's indoors watching Minder.)

And the same goes for a great many ITV programmes.

In fact, using the ITV network, you can reach half the TV audience, *with a single ad, 7 days a week.*

In America, that only happens 3 or 4 times a year.

And it's the same story if you look at other countries' TV.

How to grab your viewers down under.

In Australia, for instance, they've got a whole tucker-bag of channels to choose from; but the 1984 average Adult Cost per Thousand was a staggering £4.30.

So, on Everage, it costs a lot more to reach those housewife superstars.

And, if you want to reach half the TV audience with one TV network, 7 days a week... you can't.

So it seems that Britain's one-network system guarantees the best value TV in the world.

And we mean to keep our place in that status quo.

But there's one thing more important than the status quo – the quid pro quo.

Which takes us back, translating very loosely, to our head-line.

ITV AND CHANNEL 4 THE BEST VALUE TV IN THE WORLD

TECHNOLOGY

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

4th generation languages boost productivity

DATA PROCESSING professionals are ignoring some of the most powerful software development tools available because of cost, because they think they are not relevant to their problems or because they are unaware of the potential benefits from their use.

Inbucon, a London-based management consultancy, found that only 171 out of about 600 companies surveyed for a special study were using development products called fourth generation languages (4GLs).

Yet the report largely confirms the claims of 4GL supporters that they can lead to considerable productivity gains.

Increases in programmer productivity and decreases in development time of between four and 10 times are claimed, together with dramatic reductions in the work needed to maintain the software.

Dr Geoffrey Forage, who headed the Inbucon team which carried out the survey said: "There really are major benefits to be had from the use of 4GLs, although there are implications in terms of machine loading."

He warns, however: "Our own experience from working with our clients is that in many cases the correct product could dramatically improve systems development and maintenance activities."

Conversely, the selection of inappropriate software development tools can seriously affect machine performance and worsen development problems."

The first generation of computer languages was very primitive, sets of codes and representing electronic impulses put together in simple codes read directly by the computer.

Second generation languages substituted mnemonics for binary digits—LDA instead of 010101 for "load accumulator", for example—but it was not until high level or third generation languages evolved that it was possible to give commands to a computer in anything like everyday language.

Fourth generation languages were introduced as a partial answer to the problem of generating increasingly sophisticated and comprehensive computer systems.

Managers ignore at their peril the potential contribution of fourth generation languages in the impending software crisis, writes Alan Cane

still need to undertake bespoke (or custom) software development and this has now become the target for the newer efficiency and productivity aids."

So 4GLs evolved as application generation tools, pieces of software which made it easier for programmers to develop other programs.

Inbucon says that a 4GL should offer seven features in a single, integrated package:

- A fast and efficient means of developing a complete application.
- High level (that is, natural language like) programming.
- File definition and maintenance.
- Screen or form based input and validation.
- Report generation.
- Query processing.
- Communications interfaces.

All of this makes it considerably easier for programmers to write software. Consequently they write it faster and more accurately—and that reduces the overall cost.

It also makes possible "prototyping," creating a prototype of an application quickly and without too much concern for absolute accuracy to see whether it really is what the customer wants. (Customers are notoriously bad at making clear what they really want when they specify computer systems—rewriting a system to suit takes time, money and patience.)

4GLs reduce the need for extensive technical expertise in development staff. Inbucon claims, freeing them to concentrate on the business needs of their customers rather than the programming implications of design.

There is, however, an overhead to be paid when using a 4GL. The load on the computer inevitably increases because of all the processing power being used up making life easier for the programmer.

Inbucon says: "The extra loading is not as high as feared, however, and some users (7 per cent) even claim reduced loadings as a result of using 4GLs. About a quarter of users claim a machine loading more than double that to be expected with traditional methods."

Inbucon asked respondents to the survey to give detailed assessments of the performance of some of the main 4GLs.

These showed that "Access" from Systime, for example, could, when used for a very specific application, reduce the timescale taken for development to under 10 per cent of traditional methods.

More commonly, "Mapper" from Sperry cuts the time for system implementation to less than 40 per cent of the traditional timescale. Similar figures were recorded for Burroughs's "Line."

For the future, Inbucon sees 4GLs bringing software development closer to the user. Fourth Generation Languages, Inbucon £85; Tel: 0372 67621.

State of the art at ICL

SOMETHING OLD, something new, something borrowed but nothing blue. ICL's new generation mainframe computers, the Series 39 models 30 and 80 launched yesterday, are the most technologically advanced ever from the UK-based manufacturer, but their special features reveal their ancestry and their heritage.

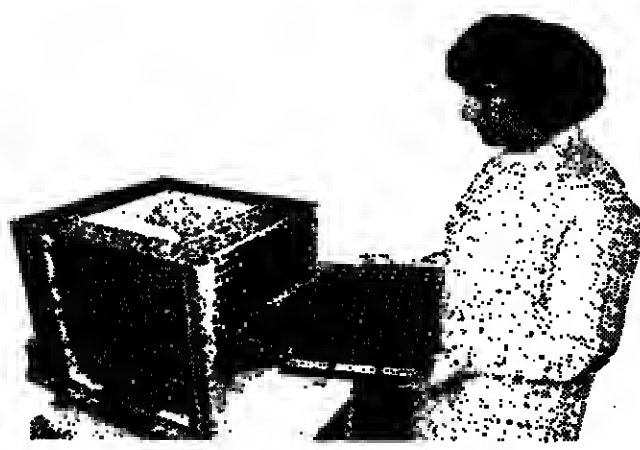
First, something old. The Model 30, codenamed DM/1 while in development and basically an office supermini to which 200 users can be connected simultaneously and the top-of-the-line Model 80, codenamed Estrella, both feature as standard ICL's Queen's Award winning high-speed database searching device, CAFS/ISF (Content addressable file store/information search processor).

CAFS/ISF is a brilliant product which makes it possible to search the electronic equivalent of 1,200 pages of text a second through a combination of hardware and software techniques—even if it was developed over a decade ago.

Another feature of the Series 39 which betrays its ancestry but which will be welcomed by ICL users is the operating system, VME.

The operating system controls the inner workings of the computer and, in particular, the way it runs applications software. Every computer user's nightmare is that their manufacturer will change the operating system so drastically when it introduces a new range of machines that they will have to rewrite all their applications—massively time consuming and hugely expensive.

IBM learnt that lesson when it established System 360 with the operating system OS/360 as the industry computing standard back in 1963. ICL learnt it all over again when it moved from its first computer family, the



A model 80 circuit board being loaded into a processor cube.

1900s to 2900 series in the early 1970s.

So the Series 39 operating system is tried and tested and applications can, by and large, be run on any machine in the 2900 and Series 39 families.

What is new in the Series 39 machines is the fibre optic link called Macrolink which ICL is using to interconnect the units which make up the new systems. The link operates at speeds of up to 50m bits a second and is the data highway between high-

speed disc files, magnetic tape storage units and the fundamental element of the Series 39 family, the node.

The node is the basic processing unit with order code processor, storage, input and output controllers and what ICL terms the "node support computer"—a small diagnostic microprocessor which keeps an eye on the main computer.

ICL claims that a single 39/80 is more than 30 per cent more powerful than a single processor IBM 3085JX, while a two-node system has 75 per cent of the power of the recently announced IBM 3090/200 flagship system.

Soon ICL expects to be able to announce a four-node configuration giving an approximate power of 40m instructions a second.

ICL says: "The ICL two-node Level 80 system requires only one quarter the environmental resources—space, power, heat dissipation of the IBM3090/200 and thus incurs only one-quarter the installation and running overheads."

Still with the new, ICL claims to be making the world's first use of 8000 gate CMOS chip technology. In the 39/80 it is using for the first time emitter coupled logic (ECL) chips, the fastest available and it is using 256,000 bit memory chips.

It has borrowed from its technological partner, Fujitsu of Japan, much of the chip technology. Fujitsu built 43 different chips to ICL's design for the new machines. The chips are cooled by air forced across metal caps fixed directly to the chip surfaces in a manner exactly similar to the way Fujitsu air cools its own machines.

Fujitsu learnt the technique from Gene Amdahl who originated the idea that very large scale integrated chips could be air cooled. IBM cools its big systems with water using a device it calls the thermal conduction module.

There is nothing blue—the IBM colour—in the new ICL processors. They are not IBM compatible (able to run IBM software unchanged) nor are they meant to be. They can, however, be connected to IBM systems through a conversion device called a "gateway" which translates between one system and the other.

Marijuana can cure glaucoma

JAMAICAN folk lore has long held that marijuana, extensively and illegally cultivated on the island, has valuable medicinal properties.

One persistent claim has been that marijuana is good for the eyes.

Two Caribbean scientists have now proved a scientific link and after a decade of research, have developed and patented a drug for the treatment of glaucoma, among the leading causes of blindness in Jamaica.

Professor Manley West of Jamaica, head of the Pharmacology Department of the University of the West Indies, and Dr Albert Lockhart of St Vincent, a former head of the Ophthalmology Department of the Kingston public hospital, financed the work out of their own pockets except for a £250,000 grant from the Canadian Government six years ago.

Glaucoma, brought on by high intraocular pressures which damage the optic nerve, leads to blindness if untreated. The pressure is caused by a build-up of liquids in the eyeball.

Professor West and Dr Lockhart identified an active agent in marijuana which significantly lowers intraocular pressure in glaucoma victims.

The medicine applied as eye drops, has been patented and is being marketed under the name Canasol.

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Low cost software for board design

BY GEOFFREY CHARLISH

RACAL REDAC of Tewkesbury, British printed circuit board design system specialist, has developed software for use on any IBM personal computer and several compatible machines.

Costing only £13,000, the software, called Redboard, yields computer-aided design facilities comparable with those on systems costing several times as much.

Most electronics companies of any size have now accepted the need for computer assistance in board design. Boards containing hundreds of integrated circuits with multilayer interconnections defy manual design techniques and call for the larger systems already offered by a number of companies including Redac.

The system can cope with boards containing up to 200 integrated circuits with tracks

on both sides. Later, the company plans to introduce software for multilayer boards. Typically, the system can route the connections on a board containing 20 integrated components in about two minutes.

Redac, which claims to be Europe's leading supplier of PCB design systems with 35 per cent of the market, has thus joined the growing band of companies acknowledging the dominant position of the IBM PC for workstations of all kinds. To date, Redac's systems, all further up market, have been based either on Apollo computers or on proprietary processors.

"The high power and low cost of the PC are overwhelmingly attractive," says Mr Ian Orrock, managing director of Racal Redac. He emphasises

that Redboard is not just a simple on-screen drafting system, but allows interactive design to be carried out. Placing of components on the board, routing of the connecting tracks and design-rule checking are all carried out automatically.

Redboard is not coming "cold" to the European market. In the past eight weeks Redac, holding only a handful of symposiums and with no media publicity, has already sold 115 systems in the U.S. Orrock expects to sell 10,000 systems worldwide over the next three or four years.

Redboard can be used in conjunction with Redlog, introduced earlier this year, which allows designers to capture data from an electrical schematic, ready for layout and routing.

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Fleming Ventures Limited

Robert Fleming is pleased to announce that it has successfully raised £20 million (including £2 million from Japanese investors) for Fleming Ventures Limited, which has been established to invest in early-stage businesses in the high technology field, primarily in the U.K. The fund will complement Robert Fleming's existing venture capital funds in the U.S.—Accel Capital (International) Limited—and Japan—JF Japan Venture 1.

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SECTION III - INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

FINANCIAL TIMES

Thursday April 25 1985

Nestlé unit returns
to Eurodollar
market, Page 52

WALL STREET

Difficulty in extending sharp gains

STOCK prices found difficulty yesterday extending the sharp gains chalked up on Wall Street late the previous day, while bond prices continued to slide, again taking their cue from the revived strength of the dollar, writes Terry Byland in New York.

At 3.30pm, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 1.10 at 1,277.61.

The bond market's hopes of an early cut in the Federal discount rate have been dampened by the warning from Mr Paul Volcker, the Federal Reserve chairman, that it would be difficult to get rates down while U.S. capital markets depend on inflows of foreign capital.

Fed funds remained at 7 1/4 per cent, and other short-term rates turned back after opening higher. But attempts at a rally in the bond market were unconvincing, and losses of 1/4 point or so remained widespread. Attention was focused on the midday auction of \$9bn in two-year Treasury notes. In when-issued trading, the yield on the notes edged up to 9.84 per cent ahead of the auction.

In the stock markets, investors were discouraged by the sluggish earnings

trend reported by major U.S. corporations. Among the blue chips, General Motors shed a further 5 1/4% as the market digested the news of lower profits but IBM steadied to stand unchanged at \$129.

Financial issues continued to hold firm, with Chase Manhattan 5% to the good at \$54 1/4 after confirming the purchase of two Ohio thrift companies. Elsewhere, retail and pharmaceutical stocks improved, benefiting both from recent results and from the firmness in U.S. consumer spending, disclosed this week.

The Unocal bid saga showed signs of moving to a conclusion, with the stock falling 5 1/4% to \$47 1/4 as more than 3m shares changed hands before mid-session. Two brokerage analysts advised stockholders to take the Unocal bid's offer of \$72 a share for 28.8 per cent of the equity.

The analysts expressed doubt whether Mr T. Boone Pickens would try to top the latest Unocal offer, from which the Pickens stake is excluded. Mr Pickens dubbed the Unocal offer "illegal," also softening his reported advice to Unocal holders to take their board's offer. Mesa Petroleum shed 5 1/4% to \$17 1/4 after results yesterday.

The leading oil stocks brightened a shade, except for Exxon, 5% off at \$52 1/4, still under the influence of results. Among the chemical issues, Du Pont slipped 5% to \$57 1/4 on its results.

Wall Street gave an almost universal thumbs down to Coca-Cola's decision to change its 99-year formula and the stock fell 5 1/4% to \$68 1/4. However, stock in Pepsi,

sico, Coke's chief rival, also weakened, shedding 5 1/4% to \$52 1/4.

United Airlines was out of favour, falling 5 1/4% to \$40 1/4 as its pilots threatened to strike. Pan Am, currently planning to sell its Pacific divisions to United, eased 5 1/4% to \$59 1/4.

In a mixed batch of corporate reports, Inco, the nickel producer, added 5 1/4% to \$13 1/4 after announcing first-quarter profits, against losses a year ago. Pitney-Bowes, the postage meter manufacturer, edged up 5 1/4% to \$39 after results.

Nabisco Brands, which dominates the U.S. biscuit market, was 5% better at \$59 1/4 after trading results, but Anheuser-Busch, maker of Budweiser beer, remained steady at \$81 1/4 despite a gain in profits. U.S. Tobacco at \$36 was also unchanged on results.

Money market rates fell by 5 to 10 basis points, and three-month Treasury bills were a couple of basis points down. Trading in the bond market died away at midday as the Treasury auction of two-year notes got under way.

TOKYO

Attempt to recover lost ground

BIOTECHNOLOGIES staged a sharp rally in Tokyo yesterday, sending the Nikkei-Dow market average higher for the first time in three sessions, writes Shigeo Nishiwaki of Jiji Press.

Constructions, asset-heavy stocks and some blue chips drew small-lot buying, but most investors remained on the sidelines.

The 225-issue indicator advanced 93.83 to 12,217.71, but gains barely outnumbered losers by 380 to 389, with 163 issues unchanged. Volume fell to 288m shares from Tuesday's 303m.

Unable to predict price moves, investors were hesitant to participate in the market. The dealing divisions of brokerage houses were restrained from active trading, with transactions for delivery within this month ending today and a holiday-studded week starting on Monday.

Reflecting the imminent start of clinical tests on the anti-cancer tumour necrosis factor (TNF), Asahi Chemical added 5 1/4% to ¥845. Toyokozo soared 11 1/4% to ¥1,660 and Daiinippon Pharmaceutical 12 1/4% to ¥4,480.

This triggered advances among makers of other types of biotechnology-related anti-cancer drugs. Green Cross scored a daily limit gain of ¥200 to ¥3,100, while Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical closed ¥100 up at ¥3,100 and Mochida Pharmaceutical soared ¥470 to ¥9,320.

Light buying prompted by the overnight rise on Wall Street pushed up some blue chips, with Hitachi and Sony gaining ¥10 to ¥812 and ¥30 to ¥4,270, respectively. Honda Motor, which reported a record high profit for the business year ended last February, finished at ¥1,340, up ¥30. Ricoh also added ¥47 to ¥933, mirroring brisk demand for information equipment.

The busiest issue was Sanko Steamship, which attracted speculative interest. It went up ¥20 to ¥129, with 23.93m shares changing hands. Hopes for government measures to stimulate domestic demand sent Mitsui Construction ¥9 higher to ¥351 on the second heaviest trading volume of 11.15m. Aoki Construction was also traded actively, hit closed unchanged at ¥770.

Asset-heavy Sumitomo Warehouse finished ¥14 up at ¥394 and Tokai Corp ¥8 up at ¥360. But non-cyclical metals lost ground as the yen dropped against the U.S. dollar, with Dowa Mining losing ¥14 to ¥785.

In the bond market, leading financial institutions retreated in response to the U.S. Federal Reserve Board's hints at difficulties in lowering interest rates and the resultant decline in the yen. Only trust banks bought a small amount of bonds offered by small financial institutions. The yield on the benchmark 7.3 per cent government bonds maturing in December 1993 rose to 6.582 per cent from 6.565 per cent.

SOUTH AFRICA

RENEWED weakness in the bullion price was translated into an easier trend among Johannesburg gold shares.

Buffs surrendered some of its recent strength with a R2 drop to R87, while Driefontein dipped R1.50 to R53 and Free State Geduld turned R1.50 cheaper at R55.

Platinum issues and mining financials reflected the trend in golds as Rustenburg eased 50 cents to R17 and Anglo American dipped 40 cents to R26.80.

Elsewhere, Barlow Rand moved against the slightly firmer trend in industrials with a 10-cent fall to R11.35.

CANADA

MODEST rises in Toronto followed the early advance on Wall Street.

Inco, the most active issue of the session, dropped 3 1/4% to C\$18 1/4 after Tuesday's reported profit recovery in the first quarter. Shell Canada firmed C\$4 to C\$26 1/4 and Gulf Canada traded C\$4 off to C\$19 1/4.

Banks in Montreal made most progress as industrials suffered light losses. Mines firmed slightly.

EUROPE

Peak proves slippery for Frankfurt

RENEWED strength in the dollar left investors refocusing on export-oriented stocks in early Frankfurt trading yesterday, taking the mid-session calculation of the Commerzbank index - up 2.3 at 1,232.7 - to a third successive record high.

However, the latest indications of slower U.S. economic growth made the market edgy and a late round of profit-taking left prices closing mixed on the day.

On the domestic front, the flow of positive corporate news from the Hanover trade fair, which had buoyed prices in recent sessions, failed to provide further impetus.

The banking sector was a particular casualty of the stronger dollar. Deutsche Bank shed DM 2.70 to DM 468.50, Dresdner 90 pf to DM 210.50 and Commerzbank DM 1.20 to DM 171.

Chemicals eased with Bayer's confirmation of an expected DM 9 dividend for 1984 coming after the market had closed. Bayer fell 20 pf to DM 213.80, Hoechst shed 70 pf to DM 214.30 and BASF eased 20 pf to DM 205.50.

Car maker Daimler was a major winner of the day, adding DM 14 to DM 681 in further reaction to its acquisition of a majority stake in Dornier. The rest of the sector was mixed, with BMW down DM 3 while Volkswagen put on DM 1.80 to DM 207 and Porsche rose DM 38 to DM 1,233.

Among electricals, Siemens fell DM 1.70 to DM 544.50 and AEG was 80 pf lower at DM 112. Brown Boveri, paying an unchanged DM 6 dividend and seeking approval to increase authorised capital by up to DM 20m, fell DM 1.40 to DM 213.50.

Stores saw Karstadt recover some early loss ground ending 50 pf lower at DM 224. Kaufhof was DM 1 lower at DM 222 and Herten finished unchanged at DM 170.

Some heavy buying enabled bond prices to pick up much of an early decline and the Bundesbank bought DM 21.5m of paper after sales totalling DM 12.2m the previous day.

Amsterdam returned to the advance, with prices buoyed by Wall Street's overnight performance and the stronger dollar. The ANP-CBS General index added 1.7 to 208.1, while the Industrial index was at a high for the year, up 1.7 at 168.1.

The usually inactive share Folcker gained FI 10 to FI 120 as investors registered their confidence in the outlook after Monday's annual report.

Philips, which announced that first-quarter results were in line with expectations, slipped 20 cents to FI 56.60, ex its FI 1.40 dividend.

Alko opened FI 1 higher but profit-taking pared the gain to a 40-cent advance for a close of FI 115.40.

Builder HBG rose FI 3.90 to FI 131.90 ahead of today's annual report.

Insurers were higher with Amey up FI 5.80 to FI 238.30, while Aegon was FI 1 ahead at FI 179. Among the banks, NMB put on FI 1.50 to FI 174, while ABN added FI 1 to FI 430.50.

Bond prices eased in relatively quiet trading. The new 7.75 per cent state loan, which on Monday raised FI 12.5bn, fell to 98.60 per cent, compared with its 100.20 per cent issue price.

Analysts said that the central bank's report, which expressed concern about the state's ability to reduce the budget deficit significantly, had little impact on the market.

Zurich ended steady, underpinned by U.S. influences and a continued flow of favourable company results.

Union Bank of Switzerland added SwFr 10 to SwFr 3,690 after it said that first-quarter cash flow was considerably higher than in the same 1984 period.

Credit Suisse, which announced higher first-quarter gross profits, was unchanged at SwFr 2,420.

Swiss Volksbank dipped SwFr 10 to SwFr 1,460, despite the announcement of sharply higher first-quarter results.

Swiss Bank Corp gained SwFr 6 to SwFr 385 and Bank Leu was SwFr 40 ahead at SwFr 3,560.

In the chemicals sector, Sandoz firmed SwFr 150 to SwFr 7,850 in response to its 20 per cent increase in first-quarter sales. Ciba Geigy moved up SwFr 25 to SwFr 2,865 ahead of its announcement, late in the day, of interim results.

Hero was a further SwFr 175 higher at SwFr 4,225 in advance of the shareholders' meeting, after the bourse had closed, while Nestlé picked up SwFr 30 to SwFr 6,500.

Bonds were steady in moderate trading.

Paris was firmer, led by a Ffr 80 advance to Ffr 1,550 in Avions Dassault. Lescage was Ffr 32 higher at Ffr 767 while Club Med put on Ffr 43 to Ffr 1,085, on expectations of a strong earnings statement later in the week.

Brussels was mixed in light trading. A Bfr 35 rise to Bfr 4,225 by Solvay was seen as a delayed reaction to last week's sharp rise in consolidated 1984 earnings.

Stockholm and Milan were firmer but Madrid was again lower, in light trading.

LONDON

Foreign favourites in focus

THE resurgence of the dollar dampened hopes of lower interest rates in London yesterday. Equity investors focused their buying power on international issues late in the session and the FT Ordinary index, down 2.2 at 3pm, closed a net 2.9 higher at 982.5, its first gain in four sessions.

Although some recent U.S. favourites were again spotlighted, a host of Australian shares traded in London featured after the record overnight close in Sydney.

BHP and CRA each added 22p to 318p and 362p respectively while MIM Holdings firmed 10p to 174p.

Profit-taking dogged gilts. Longs retreated 1/4 before recovering to settle a net 1/4 off, with shorts suffering a similar decline. Index-linked issues fell 1/4.

Chief price changes, Page 44. Details, Page 45. Share information service, Page 46-47.

AUSTRALIA

THE RECORD pace in Sydney was underpinned by strong overseas buying that centred on resource issues. The All Ordinaries index gained 11.4 to an all-time high of 871.4, while the All Resources index rose 12.0 to 607.9.

BHP continued to find favour with a 22-cent rise to A\$5.92 ex-all, a 42-cent rise so far this week, while CRA featured again with a 18-cent gain to A\$8.76 after Tuesday's 22-cent rise.

HONG KONG

LATE profit-taking by local investors partly offset foreign institutional buying in Hong Kong as the Hang Seng index rose 5.67 to 1,517.30.

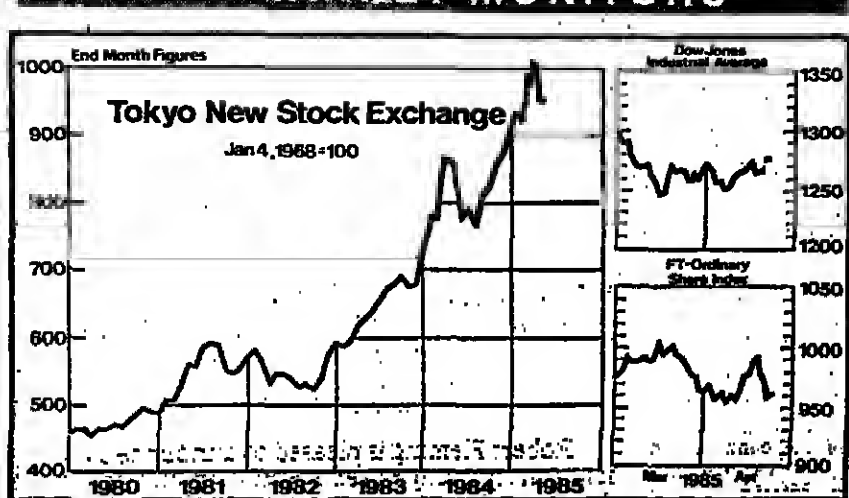
Jardine Matheson fell 20 cents to HK\$12.30, while Jardine Securities, which put on 30 cents to HK\$14, was again supported by speculation that it might sell its 9 per cent stake in Hongkong Land, which finished steady at HK\$80.

SINGAPORE

EARLY GAINS were eroded in Singapore although the Straits Times managed to hold onto a rise of 1.02 points to finish at 796.06.

Banks were ahead by the close as OCB firmed 10 cents to S\$9, DBS picked up 5 cents to S\$8.05 and Malayan Banking at S\$8.90 traded 5 cents higher.

KEY MARKET MONITORS



STOCK MARKET INDICES			
	NEW YORK	April 24	Previous
DJ Industrials	1,277.61	1,276.71	1,162.9
DJ Transport	584.28	586.36	497.22
DJ Utilities	154.95	155.83	125.32
S&P Composite	182.11	181.88	158.07
LONDON			
FT Ord	962.5	959.6	898.1
FT-SE 100	1,285.7	1,284.9	1,105.4
FT-A All-share	619.62	619.05	527.79
FT-A 500	680.14	678.86	573.96
FT Gold mines	509.3	507.8	463.9
FT-A Long gilt	10.55	10.50	10.27
TOKYO			
Nikkei-Dow	12,217.77	12,124.14	10,761.8
Tokyo SE	855.27	851.08	845.38
AUSTRALIA			
AS Ord	871.4	860.0	759.1
Metals & Mins.	576.2	565.7	542.0
AUSTRIA			
Credit Aktien	79.76	79.59	64.68
BELGIUM			
Belgian SE	2,233.86	2,233.29	-
CANADA			
Toronto	2,028.2	2,022.6	2,152.0
Metals & Mins	2,648.1	2,636.5	2,321.5
Montreal	130.84	130.45	112.18
DENMARK			
Copenhagen SE	192.70	192.44	196.11
FRANCE			
CAC Gen	213.6	213.0	173.4
Ind. Tendance	18.8	115.9	91.2
WEST GERMANY			
FAZ-Aktien	428.03	424.85	349.27
Commerzbank	1,232.7	1,230.4	1,021.8
HONG KONG			
Hang Seng	1,517.30	1,511.83	1,070.02
ITALY			
Banca Comm.	274.93	275.14	216.79
NETHERLANDS			
ANP-CBS Gen	208.1	206.4	157.8
ANP-CBS Ind	168.1	166.4	125.7
NORWAY			
Oslo SE	321.23	316.26	280.69
SINGAPORE			
Straits Times	796.06	795.04	983.27
SOUTH AFRICA			
Gold	n/a	1,094.9	1,042.4
Industrials	n/a	971.5	1,065.1
SPAIN			
Madrid SE	109.49	110.02	81.53
SWEDEN			
J & P	1,448.85	1,435.35	1,523.15
SWITZERLAND			
Swiss Bank Ind	420.7	418.0	371.6
WORLD			
Capital Int'l	203.7	204.0	186.6

CURRENCIES			
	U.S. DOLLAR	STERLING	
(London)	Apr 24	Previous	Apr 24
\$	3.119	3.072	1.255
DM	3.119	3.072	1.255
Yen	261.35	249.65	306.0
FFr	9.505	9.365	11.685
SwFr	2.6	2.5475	3.18
Quidrar	3.522	3.4725	4.32
Lira	1,986.0	1,980.0	2,444.0
Bfr	62.75	61.7	77.0
C\$	1.3525	1.358	1.575

INTEREST RATES			
	Euro-currencies	Apr 24	Prev
(3-month offered rate)			
\$	12%	12%	
DM	5%	5%	
FFr	10%	10%	
FT London interbank fixing			
(offered rate)			
3-month U.S.	8%	8%	
6-month U.S.	9%	9%	
U.S. Fed Funds	7 1/4%	7 1/4%	
U.S. 3-month CDs	8.05%	8.10%	
U.S. 3-month T-bills	7.75%	7.77%	

U.S. BONDS			
	Treasury	Price	Yield
10% 1987	101 1/8	9.80	10 1/8
11% 1992	103	11.12	10 1/2
11% 1995	100 1/2	11.22	10 1/2
11% 2015	99 1/2	11.84	9 1/2
Corporate	Apr 24	Price	Yield
AT & T	96 1/2	11.40	9 1/2
3% June 1990	74 1/2	10.28	7 1/2
3% July 1990	74 1/2	10.28	7 1/2
8% May 2000	77 1/2	12.05	7 1/2
Xerox	10% March 1993	94 1/2	11.75
Diamond Shamrock	10% May 1993	83 1/2	11.95
Federated Dept Stores	10% May 2013	88.00	12.20
Alcot Lab	11.80 Feb 2013	96.86	12.25
Alcoa	12% Dec 2012	96.86	12.75

FINANCIAL FUTURES			
	Chicago	Latest	High
U.S. Treasury Bonds (CBT)	8% 32nds of 100%	71-07	71-16
U.S. Treasury Bills (IMM)	\$1m points of 100%	92.06	92.10
Certificates of Deposit (IMM)	\$1m points of 100%	91.44	91.47
LONDON			
Three-month Eurodollar	\$1m points of 100%	91.08	91.09
90-day Notes (Gilt)	£50,000 32nds of 100%	106-27	107-08

COMMODITIES			
	(London)	Apr 24	Prev
Silver (spot fixing)	498.05p	499.80p	
Copper (cash)	£1,229.00	£1,215.75	
Coffee (May)	£2,112.50	£2,084.00	
Oil (spot Arabian light)	\$27.55		
Oil (spot Brent)	\$27.55		
Oil (spot WTI)	\$27.55		
Oil (spot DUCO)	\$27.55		
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Prices at 3pm. April 24

Continued on Page 43

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Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounting to 25 per cent or more has been paid, the year's high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stock only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on

a-dividend also allocated, **b**-annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend, **c**-liquidating dividend, **d**-called-for new-yearly dividend, **e**-dividend in excess of stock dividend, **f**-dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-refundable tax credit, **g**-dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend, **h**-dividend paid in arrears, **i**-dividend declared or paid this year, **j**-dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, **k**-dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, plus stock dividend, **l**-dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months, **m**-dividend called value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date, **n**-dividend called value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date, **o**-dividend being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Act, or otherwise assumed by such corporation, **p**-distributed, **q**-when dividends were distributed, **r**-dividend or ex-dividend, **s**-ex-distribution, **t**-with warrants, **y**-ex-dividend and sales

"What's special about these Danish companies?"

Banking Companies:
 Adlbanken, American Express Bank A/S, Andelsbanken, Andelskredit A.M.B.A.,
 Bank of America, Baltica-Nordisk RE, Bænk og Bænk, Børsmester & Wein
 Schibsted A/S, Børsmester & Wein Scandinavian Contractor A/S, Børsforretnin
 ApS, Carlsberg Breweries, Carlsberg A/S, C&G Bank A/S, The Chase Natio
 nal Bank N.A., Copenhagen, A/S Chemiska, Christian Fovling Internatio
 nal A/S, Christiani & Nielsen A/S, Citibank, N.A., Codan Forsikring, Conti
 Dato A/S, Danish Steel Works Ltd., Danmarks Sparveselskaber, Dansk Olie
 & Naturgas A/S, Den Danske Bank, Den Danske Provinsbank A/S, DFDS A/S,
 De Forenede Bryggerier A/S, Finansieringsinstituttet for Industri og Håndværk,
 N. H. Foss Electric, Fano Kalk, Gremstrup Selskabet, Guldbærgs, Handels
 bank A/S, Høllandsk, A/S, Høllandsk, A/S, Høllandsk, A/S, Høllandsk, A/S,
 & Sonner A/S, Jyske Bank, Kamp & Lowenstein A/S, Kjøbenhavn Koncernselskab A/S,
 The Bank of Copenhagen, København, København, København, København,
 Exchange, Larsen & Nielsen Copenhagen Holdings A/S, L.A. Næs A/S, Magasin du
 Nord, McKinsey & Co., Inc., Mønsterg & Thomsen A/S, Mønsterg A/S,
 Northern Federal International Ltd., Olivetti A/S, Pedersen & Mønsterg A/S,
 Rør Xerox A/S, A/S Thomsen Th. Sørensen & Co., Svalofin & Holmlund A/S,
 Tømreren & Weeds Ltd. A/S, Sparekassen SDS, Storm A/S, Sveriges A/S, Trævirk-

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• *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*) is the primary photosynthetic pigment in all photosynthetic organisms. It is a green pigment that absorbs light energy in the blue and red regions of the visible spectrum. Chl *a* is the most abundant pigment in the chloroplasts of green plants and algae.

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Financial Times Thursday April 25 1985

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FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE[illegible]

14 Back pack for horse going round states (9)

16 Civilians lived such a life in the war, strangely enough (5)

17 Gold sovereign? (4, 5)

18 New-fangled sort of wheel (7)

20 Concerned with rowdier traces (7)

22 Put away a notion before the chair? (5)

23 Language of a quarter of Parisians (5)

24 Swear there's nothing in the way (5)

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Midland Bank Tr. Corp. (Japan) Ltd. Sharehold Management Limited

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CURRENCIES, MONEY and CAPITAL MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Volcker provides dollar boost

The dollar rose sharply in nervous foreign exchange trading, but came off the day's peaks as Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, began to give testimony before a Congressional subcommittee. Mr Volcker's comments the previous day about the difficulty of reducing interest rates with such a high Federal budget deficit to finance was a major factor behind yesterday's demand for the dollar. This began in the U.S. overnight, and was fuelled by large speculative positions looking for a firmer dollar on the Chicago futures market. Other factors behind the dollar's recent surge are indications that economic growth in the present quarter will be higher than during the first three months of the year, coupled with the resilience of the currency after the sharp fall in March durable goods orders and the earlier disappointing revision to first quarter gross national product growth.

The dollar touched a peak of DM 3.1370, and closed at DM 3.1190, compared with DM 3.0720. It also rose from FF 9.5050 from FF 9.3850,

and anticipation of higher U.S. economic growth in the current quarter. The dollar closed in Frankfurt at DM 3.1289 compared with DM 3.0850 on Tuesday. Earlier in the day the Bundesbank did not intervene when the U.S. currency rose to DM 3.1275 from DM 3.0945 at the Frankfurt closing. Trading was nervous, lacking new factors, with dealers diving over the dollar's future trend, although many were surprised at the sudden rise. The D-mark showed mixed changes against other major currencies at the closing.

STERLING INDEX
April 24 Previous
8.30 am 78.5 79.0
9.00 am 78.4 79.1
10.00 am 78.5 79.2
11.00 am 78.3 79.2
12.00 pm 78.0 79.0
1.00 pm 77.8 79.0
2.00 pm 77.4 79.0
3.00 pm 77.3 79.0

£ IN NEW YORK
April 24 Previous
Spot 1.2855-1.2875 1.2855-1.2875
1 month 1.2850-1.2870 1.2850-1.2870
3 months 1.2840-1.2860 1.2840-1.2860
6 months 1.2830-1.2850 1.2830-1.2850
12 months 1.2820-1.2840 1.2820-1.2840

Changes are for U.S. dollars, therefore positive change denotes a weak currency. Adjustment calculated by Financial Times.

EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

Country	Unit	Rate	% change
Belgium	Franc	44.5000	+0.25
France	Franc	44.5000	+0.25
Germany	Mark	2.3610	-0.10
Italy	Lira	2036.00	-0.10
Netherlands	Guilder	3.6030	-0.10
Portugal	Escudo	200.4800	-0.10
Spain	Peseta	166.3700	-0.10
Sweden	Krona	4.6600	-0.10
Switzerland	Franc	7.2000	-0.10
United Kingdom	Pound	1.0000	-0.10

POUND SPOT—FORWARD AGAINST POUND

Apr. 24	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
U.S.	1.2850-1.2870	1.2855	1.2850-1.2870	4.00	1.2850-1.2870	4.00
Canada	1.0700-1.0720	1.0710	1.0700-1.0720	4.00	1.0700-1.0720	4.00
Denmark	1.5200-1.5220	1.5210	1.5200-1.5220	4.00	1.5200-1.5220	4.00
France	9.5000-9.5020	9.5010	9.5000-9.5020	4.00	9.5000-9.5020	4.00
Germany	2.3600-2.3620	2.3610	2.3600-2.3620	4.00	2.3600-2.3620	4.00
Italy	2036.00-2038.00	2037.00	2036.00-2038.00	4.00	2036.00-2038.00	4.00
Netherlands	3.6000-3.6020	3.6010	3.6000-3.6020	4.00	3.6000-3.6020	4.00
Portugal	200.4800-200.4820	200.4810	200.4800-200.4820	4.00	200.4800-200.4820	4.00
Spain	166.3700-166.3720	166.3710	166.3700-166.3720	4.00	166.3700-166.3720	4.00
Sweden	4.6600-4.6620	4.6610	4.6600-4.6620	4.00	4.6600-4.6620	4.00
Switzerland	7.2000-7.2020	7.2010	7.2000-7.2020	4.00	7.2000-7.2020	4.00
U.K.	1.0000-1.0000	1.0000	1.0000-1.0000	4.00	1.0000-1.0000	4.00

DOLLAR SPOT—FORWARD AGAINST DOLLAR

Apr. 24	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
U.S.	1.2850-1.2870	1.2855	1.2850-1.2870	4.00	1.2850-1.2870	4.00
Canada	1.0700-1.0720	1.0710	1.0700-1.0720	4.00	1.0700-1.0720	4.00
Denmark	1.5200-1.5220	1.5210	1.5200-1.5220	4.00	1.5200-1.5220	4.00
France	9.5000-9.5020	9.5010	9.5000-9.5020	4.00	9.5000-9.5020	4.00
Germany	2.3600-2.3620	2.3610	2.3600-2.3620	4.00	2.3600-2.3620	4.00
Italy	2036.00-2038.00	2037.00	2036.00-2038.00	4.00	2036.00-2038.00	4.00
Netherlands	3.6000-3.6020	3.6010	3.6000-3.6020	4.00	3.6000-3.6020	4.00
Portugal	200.4800-200.4820	200.4810	200.4800-200.4820	4.00	200.4800-200.4820	4.00
Spain	166.3700-166.3720	166.3710	166.3700-166.3720	4.00	166.3700-166.3720	4.00
Sweden	4.6600-4.6620	4.6610	4.6600-4.6620	4.00	4.6600-4.6620	4.00
Switzerland	7.2000-7.2020	7.2010	7.2000-7.2020	4.00	7.2000-7.2020	4.00
U.K.	1.0000-1.0000	1.0000	1.0000-1.0000	4.00	1.0000-1.0000	4.00

OTHER CURRENCIES

Apr. 24	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
Argentina	1.0000-1.0000	1.0000	1.0000-1.0000	4.00	1.0000-1.0000	4.00
Australia	1.0000-1.0000	1.0000	1.0000-1.0000	4.00	1.0000-1.0000	4.00
Canada	1.0700-1.0720	1.0710	1.0700-1.0720	4.00	1.0700-1.0720	4.00
Denmark	1.5200-1.5220	1.5210	1.5200-1.5220	4.00	1.5200-1.5220	4.00
France	9.5000-9.5020	9.5010	9.5000-9.5020	4.00	9.5000-9.5020	4.00
Germany	2.3600-2.3620	2.3610	2.3600-2.3620	4.00	2.3600-2.3620	4.00
Italy	2036.00-2038.00	2037.00	2036.00-2038.00	4.00	2036.00-2038.00	4.00
Netherlands	3.6000-3.6020	3.6010	3.6000-3.6020	4.00	3.6000-3.6020	4.00
Portugal	200.4800-200.4820	200.4810	200.4800-200.4820	4.00	200.4800-200.4820	4.00
Spain	166.3700-166.3720	166.3710	166.3700-166.3720	4.00	166.3700-166.3720	4.00
Sweden	4.6600-4.6620	4.6610	4.6600-4.6620	4.00	4.6600-4.6620	4.00
Switzerland	7.2000-7.2020	7.2010	7.2000-7.2020	4.00	7.2000-7.2020	4.00
U.K.	1.0000-1.0000	1.0000	1.0000-1.0000	4.00	1.0000-1.0000	4.00

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

Apr. 24	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
U.S.	1.2850-1.2870	1.2855	1.2850-1.2870	4.00	1.2850-1.2870	4.00
Canada	1.0700-1.0720	1.0710	1.0700-1.0720	4.00	1.0700-1.0720	4.00
Denmark	1.5200-1.5220	1.5210	1.5200-1.5220	4.00	1.5200-1.5220	4.00
France	9.5000-9.5020	9.5010	9.5000-9.5020	4.00	9.5000-9.5020	4.00
Germany	2.3600-2.3620	2.3610	2.3600-2.3620	4.00	2.3600-2.3620	4.00
Italy	2036.00-2038.00	2037.00	2036.00-2038.00	4.00	2036.00-2038.00	4.00
Netherlands	3.6000-3.6020	3.6010	3.6000-3.6020	4.00	3.6000-3.6020	4.00
Portugal	200.4800-200.4820	200.4810	200.4800-200.4820	4.00	200.4800-200.4820	4.00
Spain	166.3700-166.3720	166.3710	166.3700-166.3720	4.00	166.3700-166.3720	4.00
Sweden	4.6600-4.6620	4.6610	4.6600-4.6620	4.00	4.6600-4.6620	4.00
Switzerland	7.2000-7.2020	7.2010	7.2000-7.2020	4.00	7.2000-7.2020	4.00
U.K.	1.0000-1.0000	1.0000	1.0000-1.0000	4.00	1.0000-1.0000	4.00

CURRENCY RATES

Apr. 24	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
U.S.	1.2850-1.2870	1.2855	1.2850-1.2870	4.00	1.2850-1.2870	4.00
Canada	1.0700-1.0720	1.0710	1.0700-1.0720	4.00	1.0700-1.0720	4.00
Denmark	1.5200-1.5220	1.5210	1.5200-1.5220	4.00	1.5200-1.5220	4.00
France	9.5000-9.5020	9.5010	9.5000-9.5020	4.00	9.5000-9.5020	4.00
Germany	2.3600-2.3620	2.3610	2.3600-2.3620	4.00	2.3600-2.3620	4.00
Italy	2036.00-2038.00	2037.00	2036.00-2038.00	4.00	2036.00-2038.00	4.00
Netherlands	3.6000-3.6020	3.6010	3.6000-3.6020	4.00	3.6000-3.6020	4.00
Portugal	200.4800-200.4820	200.4810	200.4800-200.4820	4.00	200.4800-200.4820	4.00
Spain	166.3700-166.3720	166.3710	166.3700-166.3720	4.00	166.3700-166.3720	4.00
Sweden	4.6600-4.6620	4.6610	4.6600-4.6620	4.00	4.6600-4.6620	4.00
Switzerland	7.2000-7.2020	7.2010	7.2000-7.2020	4.00	7.2000-7.2020	4.00
U.K.	1.0000-1.0000	1.0000	1.0000-1.0000	4.00	1.0000-1.0000	4.00

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Apr. 24	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
U.S.	1.2850-1.2870	1.2855	1.2850-1.2870	4.00	1.2850-1.2870	4.00
Canada	1.0700-1.0720	1.0710	1.0700-1.0720	4.00	1.0700-1.0720	4.00
Denmark	1.5200-1.5220	1.5210	1.5200-1.5220	4.00	1.5200-1.5220	4.00
France	9.5000-9.5020	9.5010	9.5000-9.5020	4.00	9.5000-9.5020	4.00
Germany	2.3600-2.3620	2.3610	2.3600-2.3620	4.00	2.3600-2.3620	4.00
Italy	2036.00-2038.00	2037.00	2036.00-2038.00	4.00	2036.00-2038.00	4.00
Netherlands	3.6000-3.6020	3.6010	3.6000-3.6020	4.00	3.6000-3.6020	4.00
Portugal	200.4800-200.4820	200.4810	200.4800-200.4820	4.00	200.4800-200.4820	4.00
Spain	166.3700-166.3720	166.3710	166.3700-166.3720	4.00	166.3700-166.3720	4.00
Sweden	4.6600-4.6620	4.6610	4.6600-4.6620	4.00	4.6600-4.6620	4.00
Switzerland	7.2000-7.2020	7.2010	7.2000-7.2020	4.00	7.2000-7.2020	4.00
U.K.	1.0000-1.0000	1.0000	1.0000-1.0000	4.00	1.0000-1.0000	4.00

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES (Market closing rates)

Apr. 24	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
U.S.	1.2850-1.2870	1.2855	1.2850-1.2870	4.00	1.2850-1.2870	4.00
Canada	1.0700-1.0720	1.0710	1.0700-1.0720	4.00	1.0700-1.0720	4.00
Denmark	1.5200-1.5220	1.5210	1.5200-1.5220	4.00	1.5200-1.5220	4.00
France	9.5000-9.5020	9.5010	9.5000-9.5020	4.00	9.5000-9.5020	4.00
Germany	2.3600-2.3620	2.3610	2.3600-2.3620	4.00	2.3600-2.3620	4.00
Italy	2036.00-2038.00	2037.00	2036.00-2038.00	4.00	2036.00-2038.00	4.00
Netherlands	3.6000-3.6020	3.6010	3.6000-3.6020	4.00	3.6000-3.6020	4.00
Portugal	200.4800-200.4820	200.4810	200.4800-200.4820	4.00	200.4800-200.4820	4.00
Spain	166.3700-166.3720	166.3710	166.3700-166.3720	4.00	166.3700-166.3720	4.00
Sweden	4.6600-4.6620	4.6610	4.6600-4.6620	4.00	4.6600-4.6620	4.00
Switzerland	7.2000-7.2020	7.2010	7.2000-7.2020	4.00	7.2000-7.2020	4.00
U.K.	1.0000-1.0000	1.0000	1.0000-1.0000	4.00	1.0000-1.0000	4.00

MONEY MARKETS

UK rates up on weak pound

Interest rates were marked up in London yesterday as sterling reacted to renewed dollar demand by falling to a three-week low. The Bank of England raised its base rate to 12 1/2 per cent from 12 1/4 per cent, reducing hopes of an early cut in clearing bank base rates. Three-month eligible bank bills were bid at 11 1/2 per cent compared with 11 1/4 per cent. Overnight interbank money touched a low of 10 1/2 per cent after opening at 10 1/4 per cent as the market faced a relatively small shortage of funds in relation to the extreme shortages experienced last week.

The Bank of England forecast a shortage of around £500m with factors affecting the market including maturing assistance and a take up of Treasury bills to further draw £270m and the unwinding of previous sale and repurchase agreements a further £680m. These were partly offset by Exchequer transactions which added £240m. However, there was a rise in the note circulation of £70m and banks brought forward balances £15m below target.

The Bank gave assistance in the morning of £251m, compared with £270m of eligible bank bills in band 1 (up to 14 days) at 12 1/2 per cent and £8m in band 2 (15-35 days) at 12 1/2 per cent. In band 3 (36-63 days) it bought £1m of Treasury bills, £1m of local authority bills and £1m of eligible bank bills at 12 1/2 per cent and in band 4 (64-91 days) £118m of eligible bank bills at 12 per cent. Afternoon help came to £244m and comprised purchases of £64m of eligible bank bills in band 1 at 12 1/2 per cent, £27m in band 2 at 12 1/2 per cent, £33m in band 3 at 12 1/2 per cent and £50m in band 4 at 12 per cent. Late assistance came to £130m, making a total of £244m.

MONEY RATES

April 24	Frankfurt	Paris	Zurich	Amst'dam	Tokyo	Milan	Brussels	Dublin
Overnight	5.50-5.75	10 1/2	1 1/2-3 1/2	6 1/2-6 3/4	5.90625	15 1/2-10 1/2	6-70	12 1/2-15
One month	5.70-5.85	25-10 1/2	5-5 1/2	6 1/2-6 3/4	5.91875	14 1/2-14 1/2	9 1/2-6 1/2	12 1/2-13 1/2
Two months	5.70-5.90	30 1/2-10 1/2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Three months	5.70-6.00	30 1/2-10 1/2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Six months	5.95-6.10	30 1/2-10 1/2	5 1/2-5 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	5.92125	16-15 1/2	9 1/2-9 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2
London	6.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intervention	—	10 1/2	—	0 1/2	—	—	—	—

